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PM expected to meet Arafat today

BARRING last-minute glitches, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to meet and publicly shake hands with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat today, a complete reversal for a man who, just several months ago, pledged he would never meet with someone he considered a terrorist.

Israeli and Palestinian officials were still meeting last night, but it seems that virtually all the controversial issues had been settled, thus clearing the way for the summit. The AFP news agency reported last night that the two sides had agreed on the meeting, which would take place this morning.

Dore Gold, Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser, who had been handling the negotiations, did not attend the final session, and apparently neither did top Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas.

"We are closer than ever before to the summit meeting," one Israeli official said. "I am optimistic the meeting will be held on Tuesday," another said.

The site for the encounter has not been officially disclosed, but speculation has centered on the Erez checkpoint. After their talks, both Netanyahu and Arafat will issue a statement to the press and then answer questions, an official in the Prime Minister's Office said. There had been some talk several days ago of the meeting being announced only after the fact, but officials in the Prime Minister's Office said they realized the value of a public meeting.

"We decided that if you are going to do it, then do it right, or don't do it at all," one official said. "The meeting and the handshake are the message," a senior American official said last night. "The prime minister is to be

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

applauded for having taken this step of meeting Chairman Arafat. The prime minister has come a long way. He will be crossing a Rubicon with this meeting."

Earlier this year, while still in the opposition, Netanyahu was branding Arafat a terrorist and said that if elected, he would not meet him.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that he has the authority to move things forward with the Palestinians, and a meeting between him and Arafat would come sooner or later.

"The order is less important," Mordechai said. "If the prime minister prefers to meet first, then he will. If I need to meet with [Arafat] first then I will do so. In the end, I

presume we will both meet [with him]. I deal with security and political matters, and the prime minister will certainly deal with other matters, wider-ranging issues that will appear on the agenda for finding solutions for the future."

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's Office was furious with remarks attributed to Mahmoud Dahlan, head of Palestinian Preventive Security in Gaza, who reportedly said the Palestinians could return to the intifada.

Dahlan, who has been involved in the recent negotiations, was quoted by *al-Hayar* from Cairo as saying that "armed struggle" is still an option, "using weapons in the hands of the Palestinian Authority."

"We were ready to call everything off right then," one official in the Prime Minister's Office said. However, American sources confirmed

that US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross personally contacted Arafat and insisted that a retraction be issued in his name. It materialized within hours.

Arafat also said yesterday that he would seek international arbitration if peace efforts faltered.

"We are committed to the peace process and we are seeking through all means to maintain and protect it and in case it faces difficulties, we are going to seek arbitration," he said.

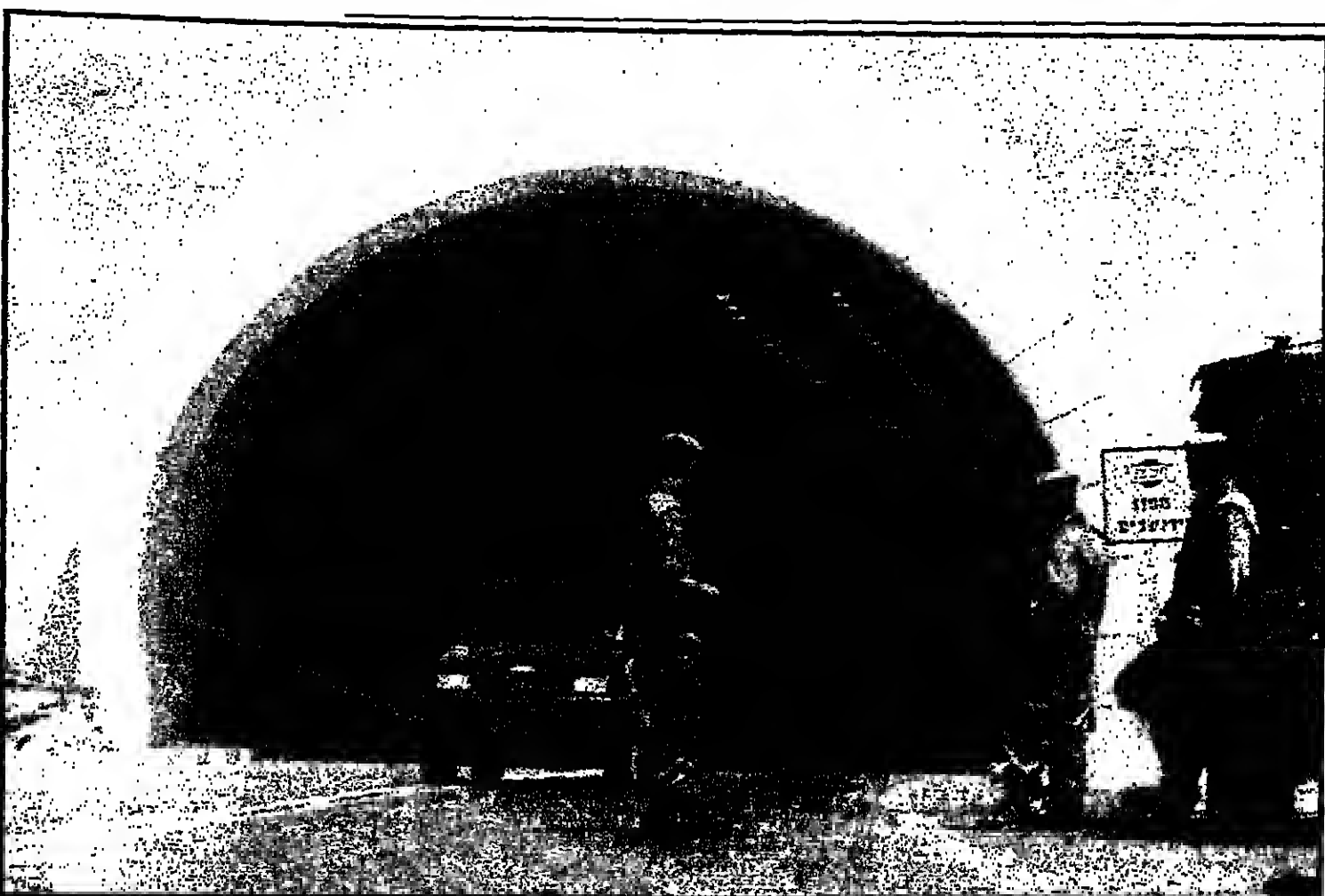
David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's director of communications, rejected arbitration and said Arafat was trying to pressure Israel.

"We are not going to anything like arbitration," he said. "I think it is a traditional tactic to pull this kind of thing at the very last minute before an agreement is reached."

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.



NFL season gets underway
It's ALL in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY



One of the first cars to travel on the Jerusalem-Gush Etzion road passes through one of its two tunnels after it was officially opened yesterday. (Flash 90)

NIS 130 million road linking capital with Gush Etzion opens

THE new NIS 130 million road between Jerusalem and Gush Etzion "will connect the city of our fathers [Hebron] and the capital of the Negev [Beersheba] with Jerusalem," National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday, at the road's official dedication ceremony.

Route 60 will link the Gush Etzion settlements with the Gilo neighborhood, via two tunnels and a bridge. The 12-kilometer stretch of the Jerusalem-to-Beersheba road will make it possible to travel from Gush Etzion to Jerusalem without going through Bethlehem, Beit Jalla, or near the Debaisha refugee camp.

"There were days when a new road didn't bypass problems, but solved problems... I believe if we succeed in defining clear national goals and stick to them, those great days will return and with them peace and security," Sharon added.

The bridge, which spans 350 meters, is the

highest in the country, with the 900-meter tunnel the longest.

The road, initially planned in 1986, received the go-ahead from the previous Likud government, and in 1992 the backing of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, despite his government having suspended the construction of 10 other roads in the territories. Then estimated to cost NIS 100 million, the route, which was dubbed "the intifada road," was seen as a safe way of traveling in and out of the territories.

In November 1992, engineers finished boring the first 270-meter tunnel through the Judean Hills. At the end of 1993, work began on the second tunnel.

From December 1995, a controversial temporary Bethlehem bypass road was opened, while the tunnel road neared completion.

Peace Now has protested against the road

since plans for it were first announced, saying the government is spending in excess of NIS 130m. for less than 10,000 people, while hundreds of thousands all over the country suffer from congested highways.

Dozens of peace activists protested at the dedication.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel claimed a victory in ensuring the road was built along its current route and that some of it was built underground.

The ceremony was also attended by Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Deputy Construction and Housing Minister Meir Porush, and former construction and housing minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer.

"With God's help, today, the battle was finally decided, a direct connection between Gush Etzion and Jerusalem," said Shlomo Gal, head of the Gush Etzion Regional Council.

Bassiouny: Israel should redeploy in Hebron within three weeks

Egyptian envoy retracts ultimatum to cancel Cairo summit

ISRAEL should agree to a timetable for Hebron redeployment within three weeks, Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny said last night. However, he retracted an ultimatum made earlier yesterday, in which he threatened that Egypt would cancel the November regional economic summit in Cairo if Israel did not make a whole series of concessions within this period.

"Just as Egypt does not like to be threatened or pressured, we will not do the same to Israel," Bassiouny said last night. "There is no ultimatum. I did not mean this to be so, so the reporters must have misunderstood me. However, I say in a positive way

DAVID MAKOVSKY

that we would like to see a timetable for Hebron pullback in the next three weeks."

Bassiouny refused to say what would happen if this timetable were not met, except to say that "there must be progress in the peace process before the November summit."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has reiterated that the summit would be canceled if there is no progress.

In his earlier statement, Bassiouny said: "The Egyptian government has given the Israeli government three weeks to start implementing five points Israel was committed to and did not

implement. Otherwise the economic conference will not be held.

"The five points that Israel must implement are redeployment from Hebron, further redeployments from the West Bank, opening safe passages between Gaza and the West Bank, release of all women prisoners, and lifting the closure completely."

He added, "We don't want promises, we need actions."

The Prime Minister's Office was furious with these reported remarks and termed them "an unfortunate threat which can only exacerbate tensions in the region."

Cairo prepares for summit, Page 8

US: Iraqi withdrawal from Kurdish region is insignificant

SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (Reuters) - UN officials said Iraqi troops had withdrawn from the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan yesterday, two days after installing their Kurdish allies, but the United States dismissed the pull-back as insignificant.

Opponents of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein reported executions in the streets of Irbil and said his forces are firmly in control with over 200 tanks ringing the city.

"All Iraqis have left Irbil. We cannot see any more tanks or vehicles or artillery. They are about 5 km away now," one UN official in Irbil told Reuters by telephone.

The White House dismissed the reported withdrawal of troops because Iraqi forces still remain outside the city.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters that reports of Iraqi forces leaving Irbil "are not terribly significant."

"There is some evidence of an Iraqi redeployment," McCurry said. "But we see no indication that they

are preparing withdrawal back to their original forward positions."

Clinton, he said, has "a defined course of action" to take against Saddam. He declined to elaborate.

Iraq announced on Sunday night it would pull back its forces to their former positions.

But an Iraqi Kurdish group said Baghdad's troops remained in Irbil, captured in a joint assault with the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), and were carrying out mass executions of members of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

"[Iraqi troops] have committed mass executions in Irbil itself of PUK members - some of them have been executed in the streets. A few hundred have been killed. Many hundreds have been arrested," PUK Ankara representative Shazad Saib told Reuters.

He said the KDP was guiding Iraqi troops from door to door, armed with lists to find people opposed to Saddam's government.

A spokesman of the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC), in telephone contact with an INC member in Irbil, said more than 270 Iraqi tanks remained in and around Irbil yesterday.

There was no confirmation of the PUK or INC reports. UN Secretary-General Boutros

Ghali, saying he was "very much concerned about the deterioration," announced he is delaying the start of an oil-for-food deal with Baghdad. Crude oil prices rose in reaction.

Oil had been expected to start flowing onto world markets in September, Turkish officials, hoping to resume the trade blocked since 1990, said Ankara would appeal to the UN and its Western allies to prevent any delay.

The plan would let Iraq sell \$2 billion of oil over six months to buy humanitarian supplies to ease suffering from sanctions.

Clinton placed US forces in the

region on high alert.

Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau were touring regional capitals, before leaving for Washington from Cairo late yesterday. But Jordan said it would give no assistance in military action against Iraq.

Washington said Security Council resolutions approved after the Gulf war gave a legal basis for responding, but officials admitted Saddam had the right to move troops within that part of his own country.

Turks hope to revive Iraqi oil deal, Page 8

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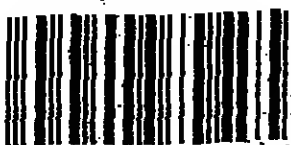
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PM seeks to soothe Likud

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met last night with the heads of the Likud's forums ahead of Thursday's scheduled central committee session, which is awaited with mounting tension in the party.

Netanyahu could be in for stinging attacks from opponents of his latest moves to reach an agreement with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. This group is led by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Science Minister Ze'ev Binyamin Begin.

They might attract support not only from the Likud's ideological diehards, but also from those miffed with Netanyahu on other grounds.

These are mostly party functionaries, who claim that since Netanyahu's election, the party has been neglected and he is extremely inaccessible. These complaints are compounded by bitterness that the party ended up

with so few ministries and, therefore, so little patronage.

But those around Netanyahu say that he is not worried and that the subject had been greatly hyped up by bored political correspondents.

It was further claimed that the meeting with acting central committee chairman Tzahi Hanegbi, political bureau chairman Uzi Landau, secretariat chairman Yehoshua Matza, and Knesset faction head Michael Eitan was not a response to rising tensions in the Likud, but was scheduled a month ago.

The aim was to put together a set of facts and figures which are to be presented to the central committee.

The consensus in the Likud is that if Netanyahu arrives at the Thursday session after a meeting with Arafat, he will be more exposed to hostile fire, unless he also arrives with a significant set of Palestinian concessions to soothe the anger.



Zalmat Bernstein (right), chairman of the Avishai Fund, which works toward coexistence between different sectors of the population, presents the first of some 1,700,000 letters calling for co-existence between religious and secular Jews, which have been sent to citizens nationwide, to President Ezer Weizman (center) and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer at a ceremony at Beit Hanassi yesterday. The campaign is known as "Tsavei Piyus," a Hebrew pun indicating a "Reconciliation Call-Up."

(Text: Barabeva Tsar, Photo: Israel Sun)

Labor: Netanyahu is poor negotiator

MICHAL YUDELMAN

LABOR'S response team yesterday called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to hand Foreign Minister David Levy the authority to conduct negotiations with the Palestinians.

"The prime minister has proved that he has no experience or talent in conducting negotiations. He invites pressures on himself and instead of leading, he is being dragged. Netanyahu must understand that the State of Israel is not his private experiment laboratory," Labor's statement said.

If Netanyahu wants to continue running the talks, the statement goes on, "he must start making practical decisions concerning the redeployment in Hebron, meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat immediately, restate the relations of mutual confidence with Egypt and start building a just and real peace process in the Middle East."

"All the pessimistic estimates about Netanyahu's lack of experience and unsuitability to the post of prime minister are being realized most blatantly. To this day, he has not set up an agenda for debate with the Palestinians, despite his promises and stories to the voters about a safe peace.

"The agenda he is formulating secretly with himself is unacceptable to his senior ministers, Ariel Sharon and Binyamin Begin. Even Levy does not know of Netanyahu's agenda. Levy returned from Cairo full of optimism, and to his and the government's surprise, the voices coming from Cairo are totally different."

The statement also said Netanyahu should have conducted his experiments before the elections, adding that, "If he wants to conduct negotiations in such an amateurish way, he had better join the first cadet course to be opened by the Foreign Ministry."

Palestinian leaders call for rent-freeze in Jerusalem

PA councilmen say move needed to stem exodus from city

BILL HUTMAN

PALESTINIAN leaders in Jerusalem have found a new weapon in their fight to counter Israel's authority in the city - rent control.

The leaders, in advertisements printed in the Arabic press yesterday, called on Palestinian property owners to refrain from raising rents for the next three years. They explained that the high rents in eastern Jerusalem apartments have forced many Palestinians to leave the city. This, Palestinian leaders said, plays into the hands of Israel, which would like nothing better than for Palestinian residents to move out.

"Many Palestinians are moving to Abu Dis, A-Ram, and Eizariya because they can't afford the high prices of housing in Jerusalem," said Palestinian Council member

Hatem Abdel Kbadar, a Jerusalem resident.

"I thought that if nothing is done, some 40,000 Palestinians will leave the city in the next several years," said Khader, who was one of the Palestinian leaders behind the rent freeze.

On Sunday, Khader and the other Palestinian Council members from Jerusalem discussed the issue and decided to call on Palestinian property owners to not raise rents.

The leaders called for a complete freeze on units with leases signed since 1990. In instances of leases before then, tenants and landlords are asked to come to a "fair" agree-

ment on a rent-rate, which will not be raised for at least three years.

In the event of disputes, the Palestinian councilors said tenants and landlords should turn to them for arbitration, and out to the Israeli courts.

"I think it is a good idea," said Ziyad Hamouri, a well-known Palestinian businessman in Jerusalem. "It's difficult for many Palestinian families today to find affordable housing in Jerusalem."

According to Hamouri, during the intifada there was a similar self-imposed rent freeze because of the tough economic conditions.

"Sometimes you don't only have to think about how much money you are making," Hamouri said.

Talks failure may be cause of Netanyahu-Arafat meeting

BACKGROUND
JON IMMANUEL

THE meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, which is expected to take place today, may not be the result of successful talks, but a substitute for them.

The government says that Arafat agreed to "mutual changes" on redeployment in Hebron. But in every public statement he and his aides have made, they deny that this is so. Last week, according to sources close to Arafat, he refused to meet with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to discuss it.

Saeb Erekat, who after four rounds of talks spent six more hours in talks with Netanyahu's adviser Dore Gold on Sunday night, described them as "an arena of suspicion" and a "testing of will." But yesterday, they were wrapped up in no time.

Erekat denied there were any talks on Hebron. "I don't know of any issue concerning Hebron. The Palestinian position is that an agreement made must be implemented," he said.

And so an agreement may have been made to defer talks on Hebron, while agreeing on the more technical matters, like helicopter overflights, airport security, and easing the closure.

In any case, on Sunday night, the talks appeared to be in crisis to the Palestinians. The daily *Al Quds*, in a red banner headline, said the talks turned bad after midnight and were at "a crucial turning point."

Terje Larsen, the UN coordinator in Gaza who has mediated in these talks, tried to get Arafat's deputy Mahmoud Abbas to join them on Sunday night. But "he did not succeed," a close associate of Abbas said.

Instead, Abbas left his home in Ramallah and went to Gaza to consult with Arafat. Other Palestinian sources close to Abbas said he had been so disappointed by his meeting with Gold three days earlier, he would not return to

Peace Now begins campaign for Hebron pullout

DAN IZENBERG

THE withdrawal from Hebron is good for everyone," Peace Now has kicked off a street campaign to pressure the government into redeploying from the West Bank city, the movement's secretary-general, Mossi Raz, said yesterday.

The highlight of the campaign will take place on Saturday night, when 3,000 protesters - the number allowed by police - will march with signs and torches from a park opposite the Mashbir Lezarchan building in downtown Jerusalem to the official residence of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Other activities include a 20 kilometer march from Hebron to the Green Line near Kibbutz Beit Guvrin tomorrow and a meeting between Peace Now activists and Palestinians in Hebron on

Friday, Raz said.

Meanwhile, Peace Now is planning a massive march on the anniversary of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination along a route the movement has nicknamed "the route of incitement." Marchers, holding hands and bearing memorial candles, will walk from Zion Square, site of the anti-government rally in which a handful of demonstrators held pictures of Rabin in a Nazi uniform, past the site of the 1983 murder of Peace Now member Emil Grunzweig, to Rabin's grave on Mt. Herzl.

"Our message will be that the killer from Herzliya killed the messenger, Rabin, but we won't allow the incitement that emanated from Zion Square to kill his message of peace," Raz said.

Levy to meet European leaders

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

FOREIGN Minister David Levy will make a week-long tour of European capitals beginning this Thursday, boding talks in Rome, Dublin, London, Bonn, and Paris, the Foreign Ministry announced.

He is to meet with key European leaders to discuss the peace process and other issues.

One reason Levy is travelling to Europe now is that he wanted to forestall a visit by European foreign ministers to Israel if this entailed their visiting the Palestinian headquarters of Orient House in eastern Jerusalem.

Levy will be accompanied on his trip by Foreign Ministry Acting Director-General Eitan Bentsur, Deputy Director-General for European affairs Miki Bavli, and personal aide Ya'acov Bardugo.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will visit Paris for talks with French President Jacques Chirac at the end of this month. Chirac's office said yesterday.

The meeting, an apparent part

of France's drive to play a bigger peacemaking role in the Middle East, will be the first since Netanyahu's election.

No date was given for Netanyahu's visit, which was disclosed as Chirac met visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa will be in Paris tomorrow and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due on Thursday for talks also expected to center on the Middle East.

"There is a concern common to France and Syria about the impasse currently faced by the peace process," Shara told reporters after meeting Chirac at the Elysee presidential palace in Paris.

According to Chirac's spokeswoman Catherine Colonna, the French head of state "did not hide the fact that we are concerned, worried by the current situation."

Sbara accused Israel of "not showing any desire to settle peace and [of] talking of negotiations instead of basics...and the objectives of these negotiations."

Poll: American Jews believe Netanyahu wants to continue peace process

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

EIGHTY-FIVE percent of American Jews believe that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu wishes to continue the peace process, according to a poll to be released today.

The pro-peace process group, Israel Policy Forum, also found that 63% of the 1,260 people polled favor a Palestinian state and expect it to materialize in the future, while 49% oppose new Jewish settlements and 41% favor them.

Eighty-one percent said they "strongly" or "somewhat" approve of the peace process as initiated by the Labor Party.

In addition, 59% had unfavorable views of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and thought he was doing "not much" or "nothing" to prevent terror attacks.

While 87% want Israeli-Syrian talks to continue, 54% oppose ceding all or part of the Golan Heights to Syria.

Furthermore, 68% view Syrian President Hafez Assad unfavorably and believe he is not committed to peace with Israel.

Interestingly, 56% approve of the Israeli election results, but 57% said that if eligible they would have voted for Shimon Peres to continue as prime minister.

Arafat released 120 opposition activists in August

News agencies

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has released 120 Islamic Jihad and Hamas supporters from West Bank jails in the past month, Palestinian officials said yesterday.

Of those, 84 were freed in the past three days, said Maj.-Gen. Haj Ismail Jahr, the Palestinian Police head in Jericho.

Jahr said committees had been formed to review the files of all the detainees.

The PA reportedly released 22 prisoners from Jenin prison, 14 from Juneid, 36 from Nablus, 36 from Ramallah and 12 from Bethlehem.

Palestinian police rounded up some 900 Islamic activists in a crackdown on Hamas and Islamic Jihad after the suicide bombings in February and March.

Some 220 suspected militants remain in detention, including many who would eventually be charged with illegal weapons possession, a security official said.

Austria gives \$30 million in aid to Palestinians

AUSTRIAN Chancellor Franz Vranitzky yesterday pledged support for the Palestinian Authority and said his country has offered the Palestinians \$30 million in aid for development projects.

"We have signed agreements for 300 million shillings [\$30 million], of which \$100 million shillings will go to housing projects and 200 million shillings will be for water, education, health and training projects," Vranitzky said at a news conference with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza.

Vranitzky also said peace should be based on the principle of trading land for peace. (Reuters)

DICTIONARY OF MEDICAL & HEALTH TERMINOLOGY

By Ellen Feingold MD and Miriam Prefer

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Husseini: Palestinians still demand Israeli pullout from eastern Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

THE Palestinians remain firm in their demand for an Israeli pullout from all of eastern Jerusalem, and the closure of several Palestinian Authority offices in the city should not be seen as a change in the Palestinian position, Fatah chief Yasser Arafat said yesterday.



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert shows visiting Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan some of the features of the David's Tower area of the Old City.

Olmert warns PA to stay away from J'lem schools

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday threatened to end the relative autonomy given to Arab schools, if the Palestinian Authority continues to try and take control of them.

"For nearly 30 years, we have allowed a curriculum in east Jerusalem that is Jordanian... If the Palestinian Authority continues to try to infiltrate these schools, we will take action in the area of the curriculum," Olmert told reporters outside the A-Tor Girls Junior High School, which he visited to mark the opening of the academic year for Arab schools in the city.

BILL HUTMAN

a plan to counter the PA's growing influence on schools in eastern Jerusalem. Olmert declined to give details about what is being considered.

Tor school that he is committed to equal funding for Arab and Jewish schools. City officials, however, admitted, that this is not always the case in practice.

Of the 3,000 computers put into city schools over the past three years, only about 300 went to Arab schools, far less they deserved if the computers were distributed based on population, said Sahi Milgram, the municipal official in charge of the computer program.

Poor physical conditions at many Arab schools mean that they do not meet the criteria for receiving computers, Milgram said. "At many Arab schools, there simply is not space for the computers," because of overcrowding, he added.

Sakhnin parents keep pupils home to protest school conditions

NEARLY 6,500 children stayed away from schools and kindergartens in Sakhnin township in the Galilee yesterday as part of a protest over the poor state of school buildings.

"The parents' committee in conjunction with the municipality decided to stage a one-day strike of all the education services in Sakhnin," Mayor Mohammed Ghanayim said.

"The problem is basically a shortage of classrooms, which means that hundreds of children have to study in unsuitable and inappropriate accommodations."

"In particular, we are pressing for the construction of a new school to replace the elementary school," Ghanayim said.

The existing elementary school, which houses about 550 children, consists of a prefabricated building constructed in parts with asbestos.

DAVID RUDGE

this type of building is dangerous to the health of the children and teachers because of the asbestos which, it is known, can cause cancer," Ghanayim said.

"The municipality has done all that's required, including getting building permits, but so far the Education Ministry has not approved the construction of a new building," he added.

Ghanayim said the remainder of the schools and kindergartens in the township would reopen today after the warning strike, but the elementary school would remain closed and the 560 children would stay at home until alternative accommodations were found.

"The strike of the elementary school is indefinite, and it could be that the parents' committee together with the municipality will take further action unless something is done," he said.

Ghanayim stressed that hundreds of other children have to study in accommodations that are unsuitable for use as classrooms, such as rented offices and homes.

"We have 32 rented rooms altogether, which we have to use as classrooms because there is not enough space in existing schools, apart from nurseries and pre-compulsory kindergartens," he said.

He maintained that there are similar problems in towns and villages throughout the Israeli-Arab sector.

"There are problems all over, some of which are more urgent than others, such as our elementary school," Ghanayim said.

"It would be impossible to solve all these problems, including improving teaching levels generally, overnight. The government and especially the Education Ministry have to sit and discuss these problems and draw up a rehabilitation program for the entire Arab sector," he added.

Miller asks High Court to cancel Rehov Bar-Ilan injunction

JERUSALEM city councilman Haim Miller (United Torah Judaism) asked the High Court of Justice yesterday to cancel its injunction against the closure of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat.

On August 15, the court decided that a hearing on three petitions against the closure should be postponed for two months, to give the government time to set up a public commission on the general subject of road closings in Jerusalem. In the meantime, it ruled, a previously issued injunction against the road's closure would remain in force. However, the court said, any of the various parties to the dispute could ask to have the injunction modified or canceled after the commission was established, if circumstances changed enough to warrant such a request.

Miller, joined by nine synagogues in the vicinity of Rehov Bar-Ilan, argued that the circumstances have now changed, because it is already clear that the commission will not accomplish the goal the court set for it.

EVELYN GORDON

The court's hope, Miller said, was that the commission would enable some kind of public consensus to be reached on the issue. However, the opposition of both secular and religious elements to the actual composition of the commission makes it unlikely that this goal will be achieved, he said.

Furthermore, the petition said, secular activists have already implied that they will not honor any decision to close the road. As proof, it cited Meretz city councilman Ornan Yekutieli's statement that he "hoped the secular representatives on the committee will not be a mere fig leaf to justify depriving the secular of their rights, as happened on the Sturm Committee."

The Sturm Committee, appointed by the Jerusalem Municipality, recommended a partial closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, despite the fact that there was a secular majority on the committee.

Since it is already clear that the new commission's recommendations will not be accepted, there is no longer any reason to wait for its conclusions, the petition argued. Therefore, it continued, there is no reason not to immediately implement Supervisor of Traffic Alex Langer's decision to partially close the road on Shabbat. The usual presumption is that the authorities' decisions are legal unless proven otherwise, and the original petitioners have not yet proven otherwise, it said.

The Zameret Committee, appointed to recommend a solution to the problems on Rehov Bar-Ilan, held its first meeting yesterday.

Police search for drug kingpin

POLICE are still hunting for Yigal Sabag, believed to be the head of an international drug ring responsible for smuggling large quantities of liquid cocaine in from Colombia.

Several other gang members have been arrested and two, Amram Tziver and Avi Sabag, have been indicted in Tel Aviv District Court.

According to police, Yigal Sabag took advantage of the naivety of Michal Zilka, 28, who fell in love with him. Zilka, who has no criminal record, financed the gang's plane tickets to Colombia and paid for cellular phones and phone cards to be used abroad. She has now turned state's witness, and is being kept in protective custody.

A police source said Zilka "would have done anything for Sabag. He promised her that he was getting divorced and would marry her."

The case broke with the arrest of Tziver at Ben-Gurion Airport on August 7. He was carrying 8.5 kilograms of liquid cocaine, hidden in 10 bottles of liquor. Police discovered that his plane tickets had been purchased by Zilka. She was arrested and cooperated fully with police.

She told detectives she had met Yigal Sabag, a known drug dealer,

and had fallen in love with him without knowing about his background. He told her that he was planning to earn a large sum of money and would then get a divorce. Zilka allowed Sabag to use her Jerusalem apartment for his drug dealing activities and for a laboratory to manufacture powdered cocaine from the liquid.

A few days after her arrest, Moshe Sabag was arrested in Eilat. He and another suspect, Yehuda Balmis, were released a few years ago from a prison in Thailand, where they had been sentenced to 25 years terms for heroin trafficking. They were freed on humanitarian grounds, since both said that they suffered from AIDS.

Balmis surrendered to police over the weekend and was remanded for three days by Ramle Magistrate's Court yesterday.

During the investigation police discovered that the gang had smuggled large quantities of liquid cocaine on two or three separate occasions, each time using Zilka's apartment as a laboratory. The first attempt to produce powdered cocaine from the liquid failed, so the gang brought a Colombian chemist here to help in the process. The chemist is believed to be in Colombia.

TV stations to utilize 'People Meters' to determine viewer preferences

WITHIN a year, the entire country may be watching TV programs based on the preferences of 350 households.

They will influence programming according to computerized results collected, collated and evaluated from 350 "People Meters," which would be imported from the UK to "automatically record every time the viewer switches channels," says Oren Tokatli, the newly appointed general manager of the Israel Ratings Board.

The board comprises representatives from the Second Television and Radio Authority, the IBA, the Regional Radio and Channel 2 franchisees, the Cable Council and the Israel Advertisers Association, among others.

Currently, ratings and therefore viewing shares are established by telephone polls "which give a reasonable indication of viewing preferences, but they aren't really reliable. Phone polling was always regarded as a temporary measure," Tokatli explains.

IRB employees will not pick 350 random names from the telephone book. The people meters will be divided among the population so that their activators will represent as precise a cross-section of the population as a preliminary survey can determine.

Criteria will include education, income, viewing habits and so forth.

Tokatli brushes aside the idea that the installation of an automatic ratings system will automatically ensure that the lowest common denominator will prevail in programming decision making. The point is that "we will get a [scientifically] accurate picture of what people are watching."

Who knows? Maybe in a year or two TV pundits will assign shows to prime time according to their IRBs, or using the Hebrew acronym for the IRB, their Mims.

HELEN KAYE

Martial arts helps aggressive children, researchers say

A GROUP of children with serious disciplinary problems showed a marked improvement in behavior after undergoing intensive training in Chinese martial arts, according to a pilot study.

As a result, a large group of pupils at a boarding school in the Sharon area are now to be trained in the system, known as Guju, a form of karate.

In the pilot study, carried out by Dr. Yisrael Kim of the Beit Berl College and Yaron Binyamin of the Martial Arts College, 10 children with serious problems of aggression and ten-

BATSHEVA TSUR

dencies toward suicide underwent three and a half months of training in Guju. During this period, they were observed and interviewed both in the classroom and the playground. The teachers, instructors and social workers dealing with the problematic children were also systematically interviewed.

According to the researchers, aggression among the boys who studied the martial art dropped remarkably, whereas the girls in the group were slightly less affect-

ed by the training. This, they explained, was because aggression among young boys is mainly physical whereas among girls it is more verbal.

The boys were able to channel their feelings of aggression into the acceptable ceremonial forms of the Guju, the researchers said. They found that those with the highest level of aggression benefited the most from the training.

"The children attained a controlled catharsis for their aggression. When they learned to handle it with the right tools, their self-control was improved," Kim said.

Lod resident abducted, put in trunk

A LOD man was abducted yesterday by three masked men, who beat him and put him in the trunk of a car, police said.

The abduction was apparently carried out following a traffic dispute two weeks ago between the Lod man and another man over who had the right of way, police said.

Lod police were notified that three men had beaten the Lod man and put him in their trunk before driving off. Police, aided by a helicopter, searched for the man and found him on one of the town's streets.

The Lod man, who was found to be suffering from light injuries, was brought to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin and released after a few hours. He is not cooperating with police.

Police said they know the identity of the kidnapers, who were still at large yesterday. (Tim)

State appeals rapists' sentence

THE state has appealed the leniency of the sentence given to four men who gang-raped a 15-year-old girl, saying the sentence does not match the crime's severity.

According to the Haifa District Court's July verdict, Alexei Kachmenko, 20, a friend of the girl's, invited her to walk with him on the beach. Once there, the other three - Dmitri Igodlin, 23; Emil Haimov, 23; and a 17-year-old youth - took turns raping her while the other two held her down. They also threatened to beat, strangle or drown her if she did not cooperate. Kachmenko did not actually rape her, but sat by and allowed the others to do as they wished, despite the girl's weeping and pleading.

The district court ruled that the men's acts were "among the most serious of crimes, committed with cruelty and with no consideration for the victim's body or soul." Despite this, they were sentenced to only five years in prison.

In its appeal, the state argued that this sentence neither matches the severity of the crime nor expresses the degree of revulsion society should feel for such a crime. Furthermore, the appeal said, this sentence is not stiff enough to deter other criminals. Evelyn Gordon

New discoveries in organ production to be discussed at pharmaceutical conference

JUDY SIEGEL

THE growing of body parts from individual cells to replace damaged areas is one of the subjects to be presented at the Third Jerusalem Conference on Pharmaceutical Sciences and Clinical Pharmacology being held this week.

The gathering is under the auspices of the Hebrew University School of Pharmacy and the clinical pharmacology unit at Hadassah-University Hospital. It is being held in conjunction with the 56th International Congress of the Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique (FIP), taking place simultaneously at the International Convention Center next door.

Some 1,500 delegates from 50 countries are attending the meetings, at which new therapies and discoveries for treating a wide array of diseases are being presented. The chairman is Prof. Gershon Golomb of the HU School of Pharmacy, which is now marking its 30th anniversary. Prof. Robert Langer of the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology will lecture tomorrow on a new approach for the use of shaped polymers as "scaffolds" upon which individual cells would be grown outside the body for eventual transplantation into the patient. Clinical tests have been conducted on humans receiving liver transplants.

Other topics being discussed are gene therapy for the treatment of cancer; implantation of a disk that is absorbed by the body for time-release of anti-cancer drugs close to a tumor; treatment of blockages in blood vessels through drugs administered via balloons injected into the bloodstream; and new ways of giving drugs via the eyes or the skin.

The FIP conference is discussing errors in giving drugs to patients, pharmacology in the military and in emergencies, pharmacists' advice to AIDS patients and addicts, and the use of natural substances for public health.

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Hometown folk cheer Clinton on his way

**GENE GIBBONS
LITTLE ROCK, Ark.**

BUOYED by a nostalgic Arkansas sendoff, President Bill Clinton returns to the campaign trail yesterday with Labor Day rallies in the Midwest election swing state of Wisconsin.

In a speech to about 3,000 friends and supporters at the Old State House, where he launched his first bid for the White House in 1991, Clinton called his battle with Republican challenger Bob Dole "our last go-round, with the highest stakes for the largest number of people."

"The kind of country we'll be at the dawn of the new century and a new millennium will be determined by this election," he said after asking his Arkansas allies to help him win reelection. The mood of the Little Rock sendoff rally was buoyant because of a variety of signs that Clinton, 50, is headed for victory — perhaps by a substantial margin — in his contest with Dole on Nov. 5.

His aides were elated by "October-size" crowds that turned out last week as Clinton campaigned by train and bus before and after the Chicago Democratic Convention. "A good sign," Vice President Al Gore said after a post-convention trip with Clinton through Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee.

who allegedly betrayed his trust, Clinton said he did not want to "never acknowledge the fact that he must be undergoing some personal pain and that he did a good job for me in the last year and a half and in previous campaigns on which we worked."

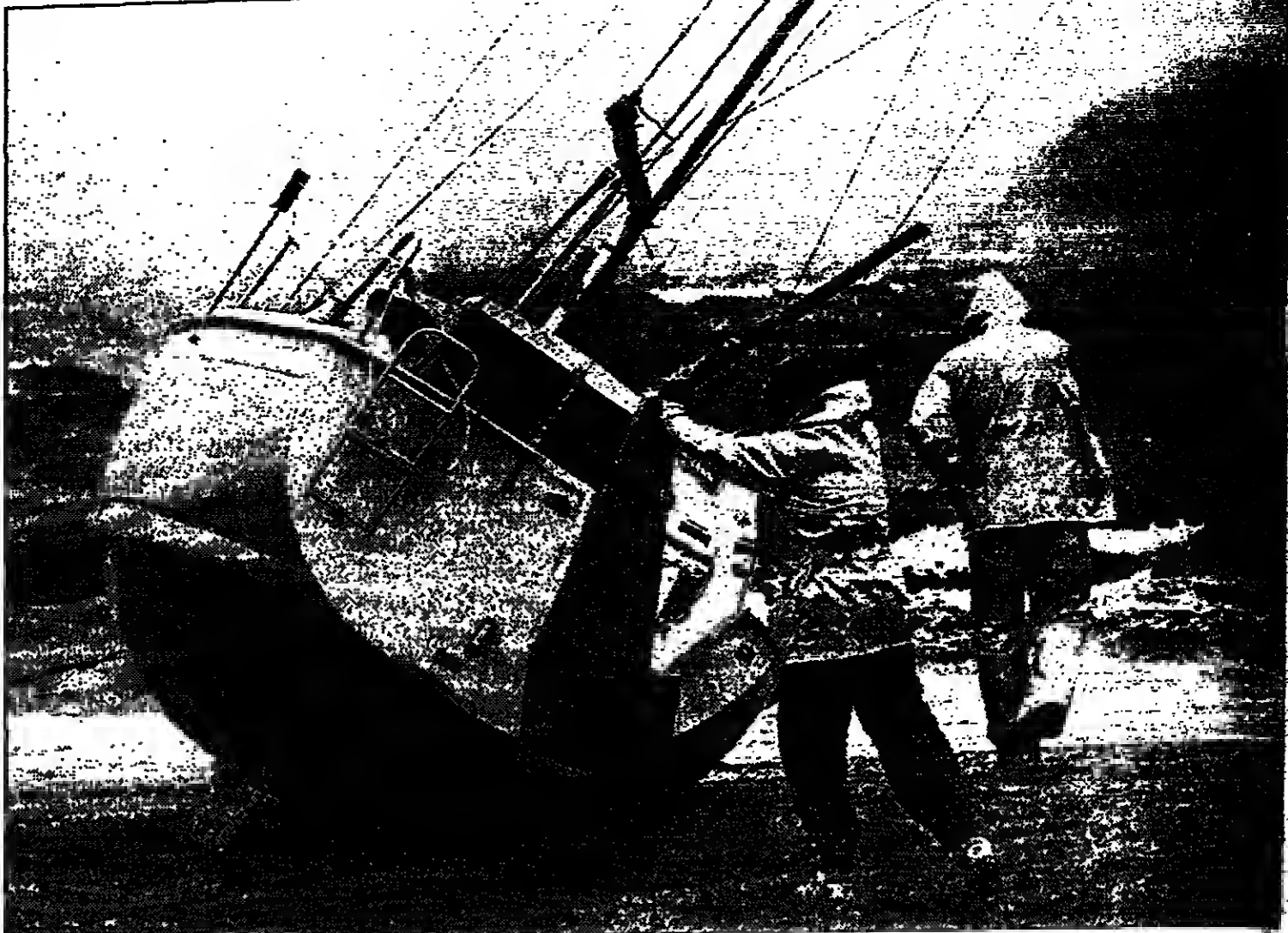
"You know, you work with someone repeatedly over a long period of time and you're worried about them being hurt," the president said. Meanwhile, his campaign attacked Dole's promise in a CBS "60 Minutes" interview to exempt Medicaid government health benefits for the poor, disabled and elderly from any cuts he might make to balance the budget.

"Bob Dole took one more step tonight on the bridge to economic fantasyland," Clinton campaign spokesman Joe Lockhart said. "In the past two weeks, he's taken Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' programs, national labs and defense off the table."

Lockhart challenged Dole to release a detailed plan that "lays out the details line by line, dime by dime," of how he will fill the budget shortfall resulting from his proposed 15 percent across-the-board tax cut. (Reuters)

The Clinton camp was further heartened by an array of polls showing Clinton leading Dole by as much as 21 percentage points in spite of a convention-week "speed bump" — alleged sex-and-security indiscretions that forced the resignation of Dick Morris, Clinton's top political advisor. No challenger has ever overcome a lead that great this late in a US presidential campaign.

Clinton aides expect the race to tighten but say an eight-to-10-percent margin of victory — a landslide that could give Clinton long coattails for Democratic congressional candidates — is not out of the question. In an interview in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Clinton expressed more sorrow than anger at reports that Morris shared White House secrets with a \$200-an-hour prostitute with whom the married aide allegedly had a year-long affair. Clinton, his wife, Hillary, and Gore placed separate phone calls to Morris the day after he abruptly quit the campaign and left the Chicago convention in disgrace. Asked why he would sympathize with someone



The owners of a small yacht check out the damage caused to their craft by Hurricane Edouard after it was beached in Chatham, Massachusetts yesterday. The hurricane, which skirted Cape Cod and the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard blasted the area with high winds but left little damage. See adjacent story.

Hurricane Edouard pounds Cape Cod

BOSTON (AP) — Hurricane Edouard plowed slowly north yesterday, decreasing in intensity as it headed toward Nova Scotia but still pelting high winds and drenching rain that washed out parades and picnics on the American Labor Day holiday.

"We've seen the brunt of what it's going to give us," said Charles Foley, a meteorologist with the US National Weather Service. "It wasn't quite up to what was advertised."

On its heels was Hurricane Fran, which picked up strength as it tracked a northerly course toward the Bahamas and the Florida coast.

Edouard came closest to eastern Cape Cod and Nantucket island, causing power outages and coastal flooding.

Yesterday afternoon Edouard's eye was about 155 km southeast of Nantucket and moving northeast at about 23 kph, with top sustained winds at 130 kph.

Edouard had passed about 130 km from Nantucket, where winds gusted up to 120 kph. Forecasters said it was unlikely the storm would get as close to the US coast again as it headed toward the Canadian province.

"By the time it gets up there, it will just be a big rain-maker," meteorologist Jim Notochey said. "We lucked out because the center didn't make landfall anywhere."

About 150 people, many who had reservations at beachfront hotels or homes, spent the night at a Nantucket High School resting on temporary beds and eating grilled cheese sandwiches.

"I had a more comfortable sleep here than if I'd stayed at the house. It was scary," said Rem Myers, who had been staying with his wife and three children at a rented house 300 meters from the ocean.

The next critical period would be about 1900 GMT, when a 1 to 2-meter storm surge was expected at high tide, Forbes said. A storm surge is caused by winds piling up the water higher than normal tide levels.

Massachusetts Gov. William F. Weld declared a state of emergency and the Red Cross opened shelters throughout the region. The Red Cross reported about 1,000 people went to temporary shelters.

Vacationers fled the beaches of Cape Cod and its neighboring islands enduring some traffic jams that stretched 30 km — roughly half the length of the cape peninsula.

Major airlines canceled many flights from Boston's Logan International Airport, spokesman Phil Orlandella said.

Edouard already had been blamed for two weekend deaths in the pounding waves along the New Jersey shore, where a third person suffered a broken neck while surfing.

Swimming was banned at most beaches along the southern shore of New York's Long Island, and heavy waves off that coastline interrupted the work of recovering wreckage of TWA Flight 800, the Paris-bound flight that exploded over the Atlantic shortly after takeoff from New York on July 17, killing all 230 people on board.

Philippines, Moslem rebels make peace

SUPPORTERS and opponents of a peace settlement with Moslem rebels demonstrated yesterday as negotiators signed a final agreement ending a 26-year rebellion that cost more than 120,000 lives.

The government has agreed in the pact to provide increased autonomy to Moslem areas in the southern Philippines, while the rebels dropped their demand for a separate Moslem state.

Outside Manila's Malacanang presidential palace, several thousand Christian and Moslem supporters of the agreement released yellow and blue balloons and bonked car horns to celebrate as the pact was signed.

But in southern Iligan City, the city government flew flags at half-mast and about 4,000 city employees and others attended a rally against the agreement.

"Here in Iligan there is only worry and cries of sadness, not of joy," said city councilor Lawrence Cruz. The agreement, he said, "is driving a wedge between the Christians and Moslems."

And in Zamboanga City, a new militant Christian group declared war against supporters of the agreement. The group, the Mindanao Christian Unified Command, is being blamed for three small explosions last Friday.

Many Christians living in the southern Philippines fear the pact gives too much

power to the rebels.

But yesterday's signing ceremony inside the palace, both sides praised the agreement.

"This could mean the end of scourge and darkness for our people," said rebel chief Nur Misuari.

Misuari, a quiet-spoken, bearded former university professor, wore a dark suit and fez to the ceremony instead of his former battle fatigues.

More than 1,500 government and rebel officials — some in colorful traditional dress — and representatives of Moslem nations watched Misuari and chief government negotiator Manuel Yan sign the agreement, finalized just last week.

The pact is a major achievement for President Fidel Ramos, who has sought since taking office four years ago to settle three separate insurgencies — by Moslem rebels, Communists and right-wing soldiers — that have destabilized the nation and impeded economic growth.

Although two smaller Moslem rebel groups still reject the peace pact, the acceptance by Misuari's Moro National Liberation Front means that Ramos' administration has now largely settled two of the three rebellions.

Military officers who led a series of coup attempts against Ramos' predecessor, Corazon Aquino, have been granted amnesty and some have even become senators, but talks with divided Communist rebels still have not succeeded.

Ramos warned that the government must now focus on eliminating poverty and injustice in the south, one of the Philippines' poorest yet resource-rich regions.

"The root causes of conflict will not go away just because we have signed this agreement," he said. "Never again must Filipinos be so desperate as to take up arms against one another."

Under the agreement, the MNLF will control a new peace council that will oversee economic development projects in 14 impoverished southern provinces for three years.

Negotiators believe this will give the rebels a chance to demonstrate their leadership and lessen the war's fears and hatred.

Then in 1999, a plebiscite will be held to determine which of the provinces wish to join a new autonomous government.

The rebels consider the 14 provinces their Moslem homeland, but generations of Christian settlers have come to dominate the region. Tens of thousands of Christians have demonstrated in recent weeks against the pact. (AP)

Parents of Loyalist militant attacked

BELFAST (AP) — The parents of an imprisoned Protestant militant have narrowly escaped a hand-grenade attack, raising the stakes in a feud among Northern Ireland's pro-British "loyalists."

The father of Alec Kerr was celebrating his 60th birthday with his wife at their South Belfast home late Sunday when a grenade

crashed through their living room window. The device, probably homemade, detonated behind the heavily upholstered chair that she was sitting in but wounded nobody.

The attack would appear to be the first move by Kerr's former commanders to force him and a notorious colleague, Billy Wright,

to flee Northern Ireland or be killed.

But the politician most closely tied to the Ulster Volunteer Force, the outlawed paramilitary group that both Wright and Kerr are defying, denied that such an attack would have official sanction.

"It was an act of wanton brutality," said David Ervine, who is supposed to be leading his UVF-affiliated delegation back into peace talks next Monday.

Ervine suggested someone was trying to make trouble for his peacemaking efforts, and he urged people to "see who it benefits and embarrasses."

The Combined Loyalist Military Command, the umbrella group for the UVF and other pro-British paramilitary groups that Ervine consulted yesterday, had ordered the two to leave by last Saturday or face "summary justice."

Mir crew lands safely

MOSCOW (AP) — France's first woman astronaut and two Russian crewmates returned to Earth from the orbiting space station Mir yesterday, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

The Soyuz TM-23 spaceship carrying Claudie-Andre Deshayes, Yury Onufrienko and Yury Usachev landed at 07:40 a.m. about 108 km southwest of the city of Akmol in Kazakhstan.

The former Soviet republic is the site of the Baikonur Cosmodrome, where Russia launches its manned missions.

Dozens of Russian and French technicians were on hand for the landing, and the three felt fine afterwards, the Interfax news

agency reported.

Deshayes, a 39-year-old rheumatologist and an expert in neurosciences, spent two weeks aboard the Russian space station studying the effects of weightlessness on the human body.

France's National Space Agency paid Russia \$13.7 million for Deshayes' journey, Interfax said.

Her crewmates spent 193 days in orbit, conducting more than 100 experiments and several spacewalks.

Two Russian cosmonauts and an American astronaut, Shannon Lucid, remain aboard the Mir. Lucid is scheduled to return later this month on the US shuttle Atlantis.

Taiwan and China try poetry

TAIPEI (AP) — After the missiles and angry words, China and Taiwan are trying poetry.

At a meeting with a Taiwanese politician last week, Chinese President Jiang Zemin reportedly delved into ancient love sonnets to woo China's arch-rival.

According to Taiwan's *China Times* newspaper, Jiang came up with: "May we all be around for a long while, so that thousands of miles apart we can still watch the moon together."

It was in sharp contrast to the mood just five months ago, when China was test-firing missiles near Taiwan and vilifying its president as a splitter of the Chinese motherland.

China regards Taiwan, seat of the Nationalists who fled the Communist takeover in 1949, as

a secessionist province to be recovered by force if necessary.

But Jiang's honeyed verses have strengthened a belief among Taiwanese that China has given up trying to intimidate Taiwan into submission, and is instead trying to win it over gently.

Not to be outdone, Taiwan's vice premier, Hsu Li-teb, replied with a poetic metaphor about cooking soybeans by burning their branches.

"Born out of the same root, why is there such rush to pressure each other?" Hsu said at a gathering of Taiwanese in South Africa.

Some of it may be lost on outsiders but it strikes a chord among Taiwanese who know the verses by heart.

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EU reopens for business after summer break

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The European Union reopened for business yesterday.

Questions over mad cow disease, the single European currency, and trade with America faced the EU when officials unlocked offices after their August break.

Also on the agenda as the 15-nation bloc ended its traditional month-long holiday were negotiations on a new EU treaty and a row with Germany over government aid to Volkswagen.

A crisis caused by the ban on British beef exports over bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, dominated EU business for much of June and July.

Officials on both sides of the English Channel had hoped a plan agreed by the EU for dealing with the disease — including a massive cull — would ease the strain.

But a recent scientific report that BSE is likely to disappear early in the next decade has triggered demands in Britain for the cull to be limited. The rest of the EU is unlikely to agree, leading to renewed tensions.

On the economic front, EU countries seeking to adopt a single currency in January 1999 will be struggling to get their budgets in order and EU officials will be

under pressure to solve some tricky technical issues facing the project.

A budget stability pact, a new Exchange Rate Mechanism and the legal underpinnings of a common currency will all be addressed by the European Commission, the EU's executive, during the early part of this month.

Together with the views of the European Monetary Institute, forerunner to Europe's central bank, the conclusions will form the basis for discussion among EU finance ministers meeting in Dublin on September 21.

Germany and France reiterated over the weekend their intention to stick with the strict criteria for joining the currency despite worries that they will not themselves qualify.

In international matters, the EU, along with most of the rest of the world, has been infuriated by new US laws that impose restrictions on foreign companies conducting certain kinds of business with Cuba, Iran and Libya.

Stuart Eizenstat, a special US envoy given the task of convincing Washington's anti-Cuba rest of the world, was expected to Brussels officials on Tuesday.

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Burma regime accuses Suu Kyi of subversion

RANGOON (AP) - The military regime accused pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi of subversion yesterday but stopped short of saying she would be arrested.

Suu Kyi described the accusation as a sham, but said she is ready to be arrested anytime.

Col. Kyaw Thein, a high-ranking intelligence officer, accused Suu Kyi at a news conference of conspiring with members of outlawed expatriate Burmese dissident groups and a US citizen he said were trying to overthrow the government.

Kyaw Thein did not say if there were imminent plans to take action against Suu Kyi - winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize.

"Necessary or appropriate measures will be taken if and when required," he said at a newly instituted monthly government news conference. The government previously had granted only rare access to journalists and complained coverage was biased.

The government displayed flow charts documenting Suu Kyi's contacts with illegal organizations and copies of what it called subversive materials seized from arrested members of her political party.

They included Suu Kyi's own book, *Freedom From Fear*, and a videotape of the Hollywood film *Beyond Rangoon*.

In an interview with the AP Suu Kyi acknowledged meeting some of the people to whom the military referred but insisted she had not violated any laws.

"As far as I understand, the law says you should not attend meetings organized by illegal organizations or support them financially. We're not in a position to do either," she said.

Kyaw Thein cited the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, a Washington-based exile group, and 19 Suu Kyi supporters recently arrested for having contact with exiled Burmese in India.

Kyaw Thein accused them of staging workshops on "political defiance" and of distributing pamphlets, videotapes and other literature that was subversive.

"Suu Kyi and her party, knowing full well that what these people are doing is unlawful, have held negotiations, discussions and consultations, and have collaborated with them in their activities," Kyaw Thein said.

Kyaw Thein said Suu Kyi had met twice during May and August with Michael Mitchell, a member of the International Republican Institute, an organization partially funded by the US government which supports democracy movements around the world.

Kyaw Thein said Mitchell was working with ethnic insurgent groups and Suu Kyi to bring down Burma's military government, which has ruled the country since 1962.

"I have met Michael Mitchell," Suu Kyi said. "If they think he is involved in such activities, why did they let him into the country? I meet people who come here and say they want to meet me. I don't vet them. I assume if the government allows people to come into Burma, they're clear."

Argentina's Menem seeks to retake center stage

WHEN Argentine President Carlos Menem was asked recently whether he had lost the political initiative in running the country, he snapped: "Those who are saying that are just stupid."

Called "The Chief" by ruling Peronist Party cadres for his firm grip on power, Menem was clearly stung by the suggestion he may be losing his image as a master of political control.

In recent weeks he has faced Peronists increasingly hostile to his fiscal austerity plans, a discontented labor movement that had long been supportive and plummeting public approval ratings. After being re-elected last year with a 50 percent majority, his popularity has dwindled to 20 percent.

Menem appeared to have recognized his recent lack of visibility and has taken to the streets to sell his economic and labor reforms and raise his profile as the man in charge.

"It is quite clear that things cannot carry on like this," said political analyst Hugo Haime. "The Peronists have got to get back in shape so Menem can work effectively."

Menem's main problem these days, analysts say, is the last luster of economic policies that trounced inflation and brought rapid growth from 1991-94 but that have shown an ugly side-effect: unemployment at 17.1 percent.

He fired his once powerful and respected Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo a month ago and replaced him with Central Bank chief Roque Fernandez, who was left with the task of launching austerity measures to reduce a

ANALYSIS DANIEL HELFT

growing budget gap.

Menem repeatedly expressed confidence the measures would breeze through Congress where the Peronists have an ample majority in both houses. But lawmakers have been unwilling to rubber stamp the package, worried the unpopular measures could harm their chances of re-election next year.

"Now the Peronist Party is worrying if this plan will continue winning elections as it did over the past years," leading political analyst Rosendo Fraga said.

Some say it is only natural that Menem's power should begin to wane after almost eight years in power. He is barred by the consti-

ution from a third consecutive term and there is talk inside the party that Menem's once trusted political fixer, former Chief of Staff Eduardo Bauza, is now closer to Buenos Aires province Gov. Eduardo Duhalde, long seen as Peronism's natural choice for president in 1999.

The Peronist trade unions, which over recent years have silently watched their power slip as neo-liberalism advanced, now seem ready to revert to their combative old ways with a call for the second general strike in two months.

Analysts say Menem needs a change of style to cope with this harsh new political reality and can no longer count on his two pillars, Cavallo and Bauza.

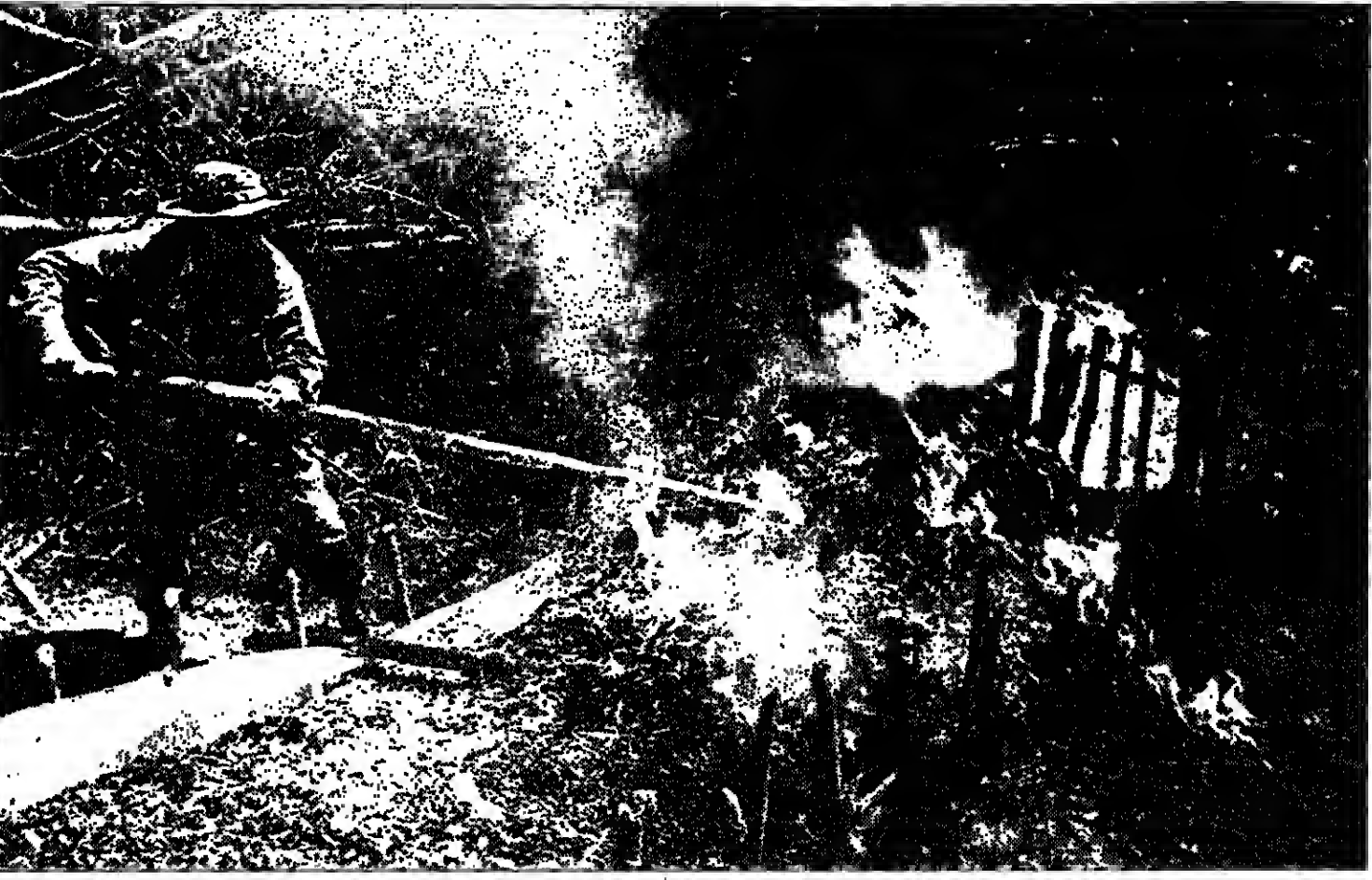
"He used to be worried about Cavallo overshadowing him. Now he no longer has that problem. But he's got to take on Cavallo's responsibilities," said political analyst Joaquin Morales Sola. "Menem has never had so many unsolved problems."

Fraga agrees: "People complain he is playing too much golf. He has always played lots of golf, except now the situation has changed and he cannot carry on the same way."

While dismissing criticism, Menem has seemed to take note. He has called for a full-fledged Peronist party meeting on Sept. 5 to which he invited unionists - the "lads" as he called them - to discuss the future of the country.

"I think it would be wise to wait until the meeting in see what comes out of it," Haime said. "It could be a new beginning."

(Reuter)



A Bolivian special anti-drugs trafficking soldier burns a makeshift cocaine laboratory in the tropical jungle of Chapare, 200km north east of Cochabamba. Drug trafficking is one of the issues on the agenda of the Rio Group summit in Cochabamba where leaders from the 14 Latin American countries are holding a three-day summit which ends tomorrow.

UN: Over 100 killed in Rwanda army operations

KIGALI (Reuter) - The UN Human Rights Office in Rwanda said yesterday up to 111 people, mainly civilians, were killed in August in operations by the Tutsi-dominated army against Hutu rebels in the northwest of the country.

A situation report compiled by the agency and released yesterday said the incidents in the town of Ruhengeri took place between August 6 and 8. It said the army also arrested 300 male residents of Ruhengeri of whom 52 subsequently disappeared.

"Between 6th and the 8th of August 111 people were killed during the course of military cordon and search operations in five communes in Ruhengeri by the RPA (Rwanda Patriotic Army)."

"Some of those killed were former members of the Rwandan government forces, former members of the militia and infiltrators from Zaire," the report said.

"As of August 28, 52 people were missing after these operations. Many of those killed were unarmed civilians," the report added.

Farrakhan: Sanctions on Libya unjust

CAIRO (AP) - Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan called yesterday on the United Nations to lift the sanctions imposed on Libya, saying they were unjust.

He made the remarks in a news conference in Tripoli, where he was winding up a visit that included his receiving the Gaddafi Human Rights Award. His comments were carried on Egypt's Middle East News Agency.

Farrakhan was the star of weekend celebrations marking the 27th anniversary of the coup that overthrew Libya's monarchy and installed Moammar Gaddafi as leader.

The award carries a \$250,000 prize, which the United States has banned Farrakhan from accepting because of decade-old economic sanctions on the Gaddafi regime, which the United States accuses of terrorism.

Farrakhan has pledged to fight the ban in court.

He also has been promised a \$1 billion donation by Gaddafi to help America's poor. This, too, has been banned.

In a speech Farrakhan railed against UN sanctions imposed against Libya and Iraq as well as US efforts to isolate Iran and Cuba.

"I call on all Moslem leaders and nations to defy the blockade imposed by the United Nations on Moslem nations and others," Farrakhan - was quoted by Libya's official JANA news agency as saying. "What could they do if we defy this unjust

Chernomyrdin backs Lebed, Yeltsin has 'treatment'

RUSSIAN Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin yesterday backed a deal to end the 20-month Chechen war brokered by peace envoy Alexander Lebed and was due later to brief President Boris Yeltsin on the agreement.

But there was no sign yet of a meeting between security chief Lebed and Yeltsin, whose spokesman again reassured the world that the president was well.

Kremlin press service chief Igor Ignatyev said Yeltsin was in brisk mood during his vacation and he would meet Chernomyrdin at his holiday home yesterday to discuss the Chechen peace deal.

"Yeltsin has finished a course of 'diagnostic and preventive' treatments, the ITAR-Tass news agency said, citing an unnamed, highly placed Kremlin source.

The report, a rare mention of the 65-year-old Russian president's

health problems, said Yeltsin was resuming his vacation at Rus, a hunting lodge 100 km north of Moscow.

"He feels fine. The most important thing now is rest," the source said, according to ITAR-Tass.

The true state of Yeltsin's health is one of the most tightly guarded secrets of the Kremlin.

The source said the president had nothing on his schedule at present, but was preparing for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Sept. 7 visit.

The report did not say what Yeltsin was being treated for, nor did it describe the treatment, give the location or duration or reveal the results of the diagnostic work.

The presidential press office

refused to comment on the report.

Yeltsin is known to suffer from heart trouble. He also drinks and is prone to deep depressions. In addition, he is rumored to suffer from other ailments, including liver disease.

Presidential aides have spent much of the summer insisting that Yeltsin was just tired from his vigorous re-election campaign.

On Saturday Lebed declared an end to the Chechen conflict, in which tens of thousands of people have died, after signing an agreement with rebel chief-of-staff Aslan Maskhadov.

Lebed's office said Chernomyrdin had backed the agreement, which postponed for five years any decision on

Chechnya's independence, the issue that lay at the heart of the war.

Analysts have speculated that Lebed and Chernomyrdin have been wrangling over Chechnya to further their own careers if something happens to Yeltsin and elections are held early.

As well as deferring the question of Chechnya's political status, Lebed's agreement with Maskhadov also provided for a joint commission to monitor troop withdrawals and the economic reconstruction of war-shattered Chechnya.

An earlier ceasefire signed by the two men has held although some commanders in Chechnya have yet to be convinced the war is actually over.

Interfax news agency quoted the head of Russian Interior Ministry forces, Anatoly Shkirko, as saying he was not ready to accept that the fighting had finished.

"One would like to believe that the war was over but I seriously doubt it," Shkirko told the agency.

"Of these, 220 occurred in Gisenyi prefecture, which has seen a marked rise in insurgency activity by infiltrators opposed to the government," said the militants' monthly report.

It said anti-rebel operations by the government's Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) accounted for 182 of the killings in July.

The Rwandan army says it is fighting Hutu rebels infiltrating from neighboring Zaire. Human rights groups accuse the army and rebels of killing civilians in reprisal attacks.

Up to a million members of the Tutsi minority and allied Hutus were killed in genocide in Rwanda in 1994 by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs. The rebels infiltrating into border regions of Rwanda are mostly former troops who fled to Zaire in 1994.

'Heart of Scotland' found

EDINBURGH (Reuter) - Archaeologists yesterday found a medieval casket they believe contains the embalmed heart of Robert the Bruce, the king who won Scotland independence from England.

In a two-hour operation, two experts drilled through a modern lead casket found last week during excavations at Melrose Abbey in the Scottish Borders.

Inside was an ancient cone-shaped casket believed to contain Bruce's heart.

King Robert I of Scotland, with only 6,000 soldiers and 500 horse, routed English King Edward II and his army of 20,000 at Bannockburn in 1314.

The two-day battle forced England to drop its claim to Scotland, but peace was not signed until The Bruce was near death 14 years later. Legend has it his doggedness was inspired by watching a spider weave a web as he sat in a cave.

Greeks fire American spin doctor

ATHENS (AP) - The conservative opposition party yesterday accused an American psychology professor whom it had hired to help win the Sept. 22 national elections of giving a damaging interview to a Socialist-supporting newspaper.

Joseph Glick said in an interview with Athens' *Ethnos* that New Democracy party leader Kostas Karamanlis' image was "confusing" and "vague." It was not clear if Glick had used those words precisely, as they were taken from the newspaper's Greek translation.

Glick told the *Ethnos* that he had been coming to Greece since 1984 to help conservatives in their election campaigns.

George Levidis, Evert's foreign press adviser, said Glick had been fired by the party a day before giving

the interview to the newspaper. He did not know why he had been dismissed.

"He apparently gave the interview to get back at the party for dismissing him," Levidis said.

Glick has left Athens for the United States, *Ethnos* said. The journalist who interviewed him was not available to provide Glick's quotes in English.

Socialist Premier Costas Simitis last month called snap elections a year ahead of schedule, saying the government needed a fresh mandate to tackle economic and foreign challenges.

Opinion polls published over the last couple of months gave Simitis a commanding lead over Evert. There were no polls published recently to see whether Evert had narrowed Simitis' lead.

Cambodians favor talks with Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH, (AP) - Most Cambodians favor talks between the government and Khmer Rouge rebels and see no problem if the renegades participate in elections in 1998, a poll released yesterday said.

The survey by the Solidarity and Community Development Association, comprised largely of members of the opposition Khmer Nation Party, was based on interviews with 900 people in Phnom Penh and other provinces.

Those interviewed included farmers, factory and office workers, taxi drivers, traders, civil servants, soldiers and police. No margin of error was given.

According to the survey, respondents overwhelmingly said they favored negotiations, with

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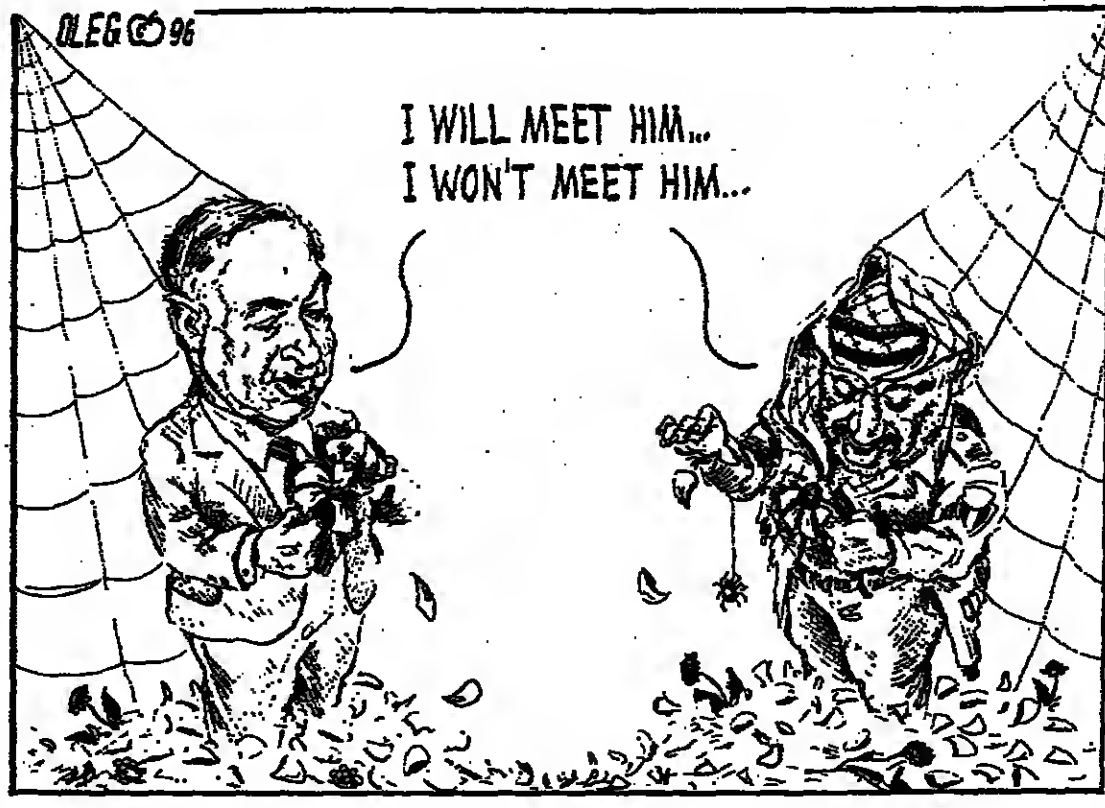
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The circle of the aggrieved

THE anti-government rhetoric coming out of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's own party has reached a new pitch in recent days. Besides the increasing shrillness of the tone, what is noteworthy about this development is the rapid expansion of the circle of the aggrieved.
Anti-government rhetoric from perennial malcontents such as MK Meir Sheerit (Likud) can and should be ignored. When the unhappiness spreads to party loyalists such as Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau or head of the coalition in the Knesset Finance Committee Silvan Shalom, however, this is a clear sign that something is seriously wrong. Shalom expressed the feeling of many party members over the weekend when he said: "There's a feeling that Bibi [Netanyahu] is in the government and the Likud is in the opposition."

the point where Avraham Shohat (Labor), who heads the opposition in the Finance Committee, said dryly that he might as well retire, since the coalition MKs were doing all his work for him. And now that Likud MKs have all publicly committed themselves to opposing the cuts, it will be much harder for Netanyahu to bring them into line.
The same petty tyranny is evident in little matters as well. This week, Netanyahu refused Shalom's request to discuss the government's economic program at the upcoming Likud central committee meeting on Thursday; he has also not consulted party members as to his choices for the party's internal central elections committee. Furthermore, he has angered party activists — the ones whose work on the streets was largely responsible for his victory — by refusing to give them his home phone number or even to meet with them, in sharp contrast to the tradition established by his predecessors, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir.
So far, Netanyahu has not faced any rebellions against his diplomatic policy, for the simple reason that he has not yet made any significant moves. However, rumblings can already be heard in the Likud against his refusal to consult party members on such key issues as the Hebron redeployment, and these rumblings may well erupt into full-scale revolt as soon as he does anything of diplomatic moment. Without serious groundwork among his own party, diplomatic issues are especially likely to cause an intraparty crisis, precisely because there is no consensus in the Likud on most of these issues. Some MKs, for instance, are adamantly opposed to a meeting between Netanyahu and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, while others favor such a meeting.
If there was nothing more at stake than watching the Likud self-destruct for the next four years, one could just sit back and enjoy the show. Unfortunately, it is the country as a whole that will suffer if Netanyahu cannot gain his party's backing for desperately needed economic and diplomatic initiatives.
If Netanyahu is prepared to talk to Arafat, it should not be impossible for him to begin talking to members of his own party. This does not mean he should give in to his party's sometimes foolish and irresponsible demands. But it does mean he must make serious efforts to convince his fellow MKs of the rightness of his path, and make sensible compromises when necessary. Otherwise, he might as well resign — because his government is guaranteed not to accomplish anything in the next four years.
A prime minister is often described as a "first among equals," and Netanyahu has so far emphasized the "first." True leadership, however, consists of making your followers feel like partners, and thereby ensuring their support and loyalty. It is thus high time for the prime minister to begin remembering the second half of this phrase. If his party has to keep issuing humiliating reminders, the biggest victim of the ensuing tug-of-war will be the national welfare.



Food for thought

NO, we don't see pictures on the news of hungry children. We don't hear radio reports from the cities, villages and camps. We don't hear that Abie Nathan has opened a bank account and is collecting money. But the fact that we don't hear about it doesn't mean there is nothing to tell. Sadly, maybe we need Arafat's threatening posturing to make us sit up and look.
Tens of thousands of families in the West Bank and Gaza have been surviving for the last six months on no income whatsoever. No wages, no unemployment benefit, no child or other welfare benefit.
Undoubtedly our fury and fear following February's bomb attacks have made it difficult for us to feel concern about the Palestinians when our own welfare has seemed in jeopardy.
Nevertheless, I believe we must be open to what is happening to our neighbors. They are an integral part of the local reality and we cannot afford to blunt our senses to their suffering.
The closure of the territories was almost total for about five months, but in the last month and a half it has been eased; about 20,000 people (less than 30 percent of pre-February levels) have found work in Israel. Most of the 50,000 or so others who previously worked in Israel remain unemployed. Dr. Rasan Andouli of Bir Zeit University estimates the unemployment level in the Bethlehem area at around 60 percent.
In Tulkarm some of the unemployed have received temporary work cleaning the streets, earning NIS 20-30 a day. But for most, there is no substitute work. In Nabulus, although most people are merchants and work locally, their incomes have been severely compromised because of the difficulty of acquiring an entrance permit to purchase goods inside Israel.
However, the situation in the

increased tension within families. Manasra describes a chronic state of depression that many people are submerged in, with increased violence in families and on the streets.
WHAT THUNDERS loud and clear amid all this distress is our cringing silence.
How can we sleep soundly at night when our neighbors are leading such lives? It isn't happening on the other side of the world. These deprivations are occurring just a few kilometers away.
While the physical distance may be small, over the Green Line feels more like behind an iron wall. It is the media's duty to inform us about the life of our nearest neighbors. The news bulletins which follow every cough and hiccup in internal political developments and foreign diplomacy cannot continue to ignore the heavy human malaise affecting hundreds of thousands of men, women and children.
One of the clearer messages of the election results was an endorsement of Jewish content in our society. But where are our Jewish values, the halachic obligation to help the needy, give charity, and save lives? Do we really believe in a selective and limited application of these ideals? I have heard of just one (Orthodox) synagogue that took the initiative to collect money to buy food for impoverished Palestinian families.
The political questions, so entwined with human issues, on both sides, are enormously complex. But the answer isn't to bury our heads in the sand. Whatever our political views, can we justify indifference to issues of common humanity and decency? Do we really want to wait until, God forbid, Palestinian children begin to die of starvation?
A community also has medical needs. According to Hanan Hamed from Tulkarm, women have stopped going to the local maternity clinic to give birth, preferring the cheaper, if more dangerous, option of giving birth at home. People are no longer consulting doctors but saving money by going directly to the pharmacist.
All these hardships have

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Kids on buses

DAVID BEDEIN

THE trauma is still with me.
When I was 15 my friend Billy Milner from the class below me at Akiba, our Jewish day school in Philadelphia, was killed when he ran for the school bus and slipped under the wheels of the vehicle.
A few stops later the bus driver found out what had happened and had a heart attack. Billy and the driver were buried the next day.
A teacher told our class: "For you Billy was one of your friends. You may forget about this. His family will never forget him." Maybe because of what that teacher said I have hung onto the memory.
Speaking as a parent 30 years later I realize there are lessons to be learned about what happened to Billy and to other children who die or are crippled in crashes that occur on their way to and from school.
Many of us send our children off on school buses.
This is what every parent's committee or individual parent should do at the start of every school year.
First, parents should take turns standing at stops — even occasionally traveling on the bus, especially during the first few weeks of school — to make sure children are following the correct procedure in getting on and off the bus.
Parents can apply the recommendations of the Betts Center for Injury Prevention at Hadassah Hospital and demand a full professional safety report from every bus company.
Has the driver been given clear instructions not to move off until every child is seated? Is there a first-aid kit on every bus? Is the driver well rested, as required by law, or is he coming off three hours of sleep after a 15-hour shift the day before?
Parents should ask — even demand — that their representative visit each bus company office to review issues like bus drivers' schedules, bus maintenance and standard safety features on school buses.
Parents must ensure that at least one policeman with electronic equipment for monitoring speeding is present at major arteries. Signs telling drivers to "Watch out for children" simply don't have the same effect as rigorous police enforcement backed up by concerned parents.
WHAT THE Betts Center has discovered through studying experimental road safety projects in Rehovot, Petah Tikva and Netanya is that all it takes to reduce road fatalities inside Israel's cities is the assignment of one policeman in each municipality who also issues tickets on major arteries within the cities.
But that one key cop needs to be equipped with the appropriate electronic monitoring equipment and he must have the support of citizens' committees.
"First-generation drivers" may not be used to all the interlocking details that have to come to the fore in creating a safer traveling environment for schoolchildren.
It remains the parents' responsibility to monitor all these factors. The degree to which parents become involved in this vital issue will have a direct bearing on their children's safety. Discipline at bus stops, the roadworthiness of school buses and the presence on the spot of police must not be left to chance.
Parents must set up working groups in every community to cooperate with the police, the bus companies and the schools to make sure that all transport safety standards are enforced, and even improved.
Michael Friedman, the director of Betts, encourages Israeli school bus networks to invest in a small, inexpensive device called NODS, which stands for Near Obstacle Detection System.
This is a two-pronged radar system that can be installed on the wheels of individual buses, warning the driver if anyone is anywhere near the tires of his bus.
Such a system to place in Philadelphia three decades ago might have saved my friend Billy's life, and that of the unfortunate school bus driver.
It isn't enough for the Transport Ministry to spread slogans and floggers about children's safety on the roads.
Parents must help replace platitudes with new attitudes.
The writer is a former social worker.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IDF GENERAL STAFF
Sir, — The attacks on the Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Uzi Landau, MK, only highlight the interests he has spoken out against.
Over the last 30 years, the top echelons of the IDF (in sharp contrast to the IDF as a whole) have become a Labor Party preserve. A group of officers — by no means the best or the most talented — with similar political views and social backgrounds began to aid and appoint each other, knowing this would assure them promotion to the general staff, as well as senior posts in the economic establishment of the Labor Party after an early retirement from active service. Meanwhile, someone took care to increase enormously the pay differentials between the highest ranks in the armed forces and other officers and NCOs. So when these political generals retire, they have a very high income from two separate sources.
The efficiency of the IDF has suffered greatly as a result of this system of appointments and promotions, which sanctifies political and economic values at the expense of military values and motivations. Uzi Landau simply told the public the truth. The IDF and the country will gain much if the government makes the general staff as representative of Israel's population as the rest of the armed forces. The motivation to fight will certainly improve.
YOHANAN RAMATI
Jerusalem.
ESTHER POLLARD
Sir, — The Israeli public was touched for three weeks by a unique individual and responded with a tremendous outpouring of love and empathy. Those of us who were able to spend some time with Esther Pollard came to know a warm, keenly intelligent, highly articulate person whose total commitment and deep loyalty can only arouse the highest respect.
In the midst of her ordeal, Esther was sustained by her intense and abiding faith in God and his wondrous ways, and by the support and encouragement of amcha.
JAY BENSON
Tel Aviv.

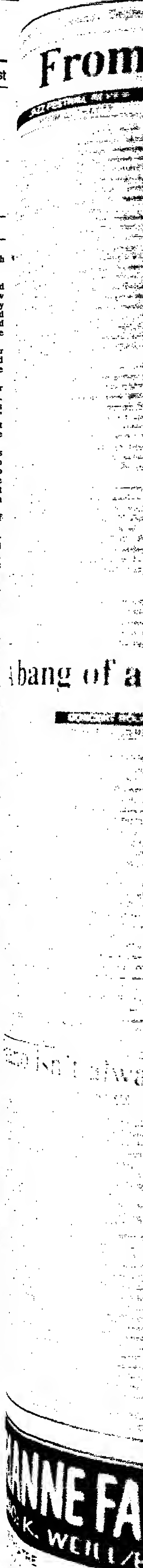
GOVERNMENT PROCRASTINATION
Sir, — I wish to correct Uri Avnery on one point in his article of August 23, "An invitation to terror," and to add another dimension to his warning to our new political leaders.
1. It was P.T. Barnum, the co-founder of Barnum & Bailey's Circus over 120 years ago, and not Abraham Lincoln, who said "You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time. But you can't fool all of the people all of the time."
2. The article fails to remind Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the procrastination of his government in fulfilling Israel's commitments to the Palestinian Authority — whether justifiable or not — is an implicit license to subsequent leaders of the same authority (as well as subsequent leaders of Egypt and Jordan) to abrogate agreements their predecessors (Arafat, Mubarak and Hussein, respectively) made with Israel.
Let us hope that Netanyahu comes to his senses and uses the safety valve of these agreements before the Palestinian pressure cooker blows his lid. The question is not whether or not the Palestinians will have their own political identity, but when and how. If Israel is not their partner in facilitating this process, it will be forced upon us at a much greater cost than anyone here would care to imagine.
GARY NEWMAN
Mevaseret Zion.
TURKEY
Sir, — Let's talk Turkey! There are plenty of other places for Israeli travelers to spend their vacation and money.
ESTHER R. HAMBURGER
Jerusalem.

Israel — East or West?

THE question of Israel's cultural identity is as old as the country itself. But since the elections the question has become more pressing. Many believe we are at a cultural crossroads, with one road leading West while the other places us squarely in the Middle East.
Until the Six Day War, and perhaps for some years after, the answer seemed clear: Israel was to become a free society pursuing social justice. In those days our party was labor, our high priests hailed from kibbutzim and our champion was the Histadrut.
Times have changed. The Labor Party is labor in name only. The kibbutzim are only marginally relevant. The Histadrut is engaged in a struggle for its very life. For over 20 years we have, culturally speaking, been rootless.
Yet only several months ago it seemed that our course was definite once more. Labor was in power and Shimon Peres had articulated a coherent vision of peace, prosperity and freedom. Our path was leading, albeit uneasily, westward.
Then came the shock. The vision advanced by Peres and most Israeli intellectuals was rejected. Many stood dumbfounded amidst what they perceived as the rubble of their dreams. On election night Leah Rabin spoke of packing her bags and leaving the country if Netanyahu won. When the outcome became apparent, a major radio station played music reserved for days of national mourning. I was asked by a client to postpone a project because of the "dour mood of the country."
Particularly infuriating was the lack of logic. The state of the nation seemed as good as it had

ever been, with even greater promise for the future. Unemployment was low, economic growth high, and inflation seemed reasonable, given the two. A warm peace with Jordan had materialized and the Oslo accord was on track. Even terror had abated.
For many Peres supporters it was an alarming combination of religion, superstition and racism that had undermined their progressive message. During the campaign amulets were distributed by an ancient mystic who dictated the party and candidate of choice. In the waning days of the campaign signs proclaimed "Netanyahu is good for the Jews." To many, it was an explicitly racist message. Irrational, neo-Western, forces had won the day.
The election results were especially ominous considering that, by now, a majority of voters were Israeli-born and educated. Outgoing education minister Amnon Rubinstein pointed out that even second-generation Israelis had succumbed to the amulets.
Under these circumstances it isn't surprising that the question of Israel's cultural direction assumed a new urgency. Was it to be West, or, as many feared, East?
BUT stating the question in these terms is as simplistic as it is wrong. Many, perhaps most, of those who voted on the right aspire to Western values. Yet such values are a mere framework within which a people can freely define the culture that binds them. A Frenchman is French before he is Western.

Even a US citizen is an American first and Westerner second — that is, if he or she isn't first an Afro-American, a Hispanic-American or a New Yorker.
For many Netanyahu supporters the recent election did indeed represent a rejection of sorts. But not of Western ideals. Rather, it was a rejection of democracy and individual freedom as ultimate goals.
The liberal message of democracy specified nothing about how we might utilize this freedom to fashion a distinctive Israeli society. The vision of peace and prosperity contained no hint of how this boon would be used to become uniquely and meaningfully Israeli.
In a democracy leaders must articulate a vision that rings true to a majority of the electorate. Many voters may not have taken the time to expound such a vision for themselves. Yet when they hear the message articulated they know whether it is true for them.
The message communicated by Peres was peace, prosperity and democracy for their own sake. He may have meant to convey more, but he didn't. The amulets and "Good for Jews" signs pointed, perhaps not in the best of ways, to a genuine need for cultural identity.
Embracing Western values will not make us Israeli, just as it is not what makes an Englishman English. Such values are necessary but not sufficient to lead us down the road to a shared cultural identity.
For many voters the liberal message for Israel had in it too much that was liberal and too little that was Israel.
The writer is manager of a statistical consulting firm and a researcher at the Technion.



36 The Jerusalem Post
Kids on buses
DAVID BEDEIN

From Dixie to fusion, Eilat was electric

JAZZ FESTIVAL REVIEW
NORM GUTHARTZ

EILAT'S Red Sea Jazz Festival, August 26 to 29, showed again that it is a top-notch event on the international circuit, attracting 10 foreign hands that were uniformly excellent. Some among the 14 Israeli groups were exciting, others disappointing.

New Orleans' famed Preservation Hall Jazz Band brought its music of gleeful abandon before crowds that heartily showed they disagreed with the critic of one Hebrew daily who said the style lacked depth or meaning. This is not a museum piece, but a vital, breathing language played stunningly here by musicians of different ages who know the music's power to touch the audience's emotions. How else could the seemingly hackneyed "When the Saints Go Marching In" get even the most jaded of Tel Avivians on their feet and dancing?

Far from tradition, but still rooted to it, were artists using computers to enrich their music, stretch their abilities and entertain fans.

UK saxman Courtney Pine brought on a computer sampler and turntables for added rhythmic punch, but the driving drumming of Robert Fordjour and the acoustic bass of Larry Bartley made them redundant much of the time.

Pine intermingles jazz and hip-hop, stretching past the now-tiresome limits of fusion. The beat can sometimes be irksome, but Pine's compositions and arrangements are often compelling. He and his four instrumentalists were brilliant, especially guitarist Cameroon Pierre.

The ever-popular Brecker Brothers showed how completely they have embraced electronic

wizardry. Both trumpeter Randy and tenor saxophonist Michael Brecker manipulate their instruments' sound electronically. But the real gimmickry was Michael Brecker's playing of the electronic wind instrument, whose acronymic name is pronounced "ee-wee."

In his extended solo during "Song for Barry," Brecker used the EWI to activate a variety of sampled passages, some of which included a klezmer clarinet, a traditional Yemenite song and a line from "Hatikva" — activated audience enthusiasm. The most unusual employment of the gadget was by bassist James Genus, who played two reggae rhythmic lines into a sampler and, as they were repeated, soloed over them with force, clarity and inventiveness.

Spyro Gyra, another popular funk-fusion group, provided some exciting instrumentals. The best moments were provided by keyboardist Thomas Schuman's featured solo which started out in the treacherously shallow waters of mood music with saccharine, synthesized strings. But he moved on to synthesized piano for a wholly organic, from-the-gut honky-tonk passage.

French violinist Didier Lockwood's quiet injected each number in its varied set with strong doses of emotional play, without using up all of their tricks or dropping hints about what to expect next. Controlled tension and surprise were the central elements that made Lockwood's set outstanding.

SOME OF the big names brought by the festival introduced important sidemen to Israel. Drummer Elvin Jones, who is best known for his work during the early



Tenor saxophonist Michael (left) and trumpeter Randy Brecker of the ever-popular Brecker Brothers impressed audiences with their variety of sounds.

1960s with legendary tenor saxophonist John Coltrane, has fine young players of note in his Jazz Machine.

Tenor player Javon Jackson, who leads his own band, delivers tidy rushes of arpeggios, while trombonist Delfeayo Marsalis — the younger brother of acclaimed trumpeter Wynton and saxman Branford — produces a crop of

individualistic statements and bushels of asides in an even, delicious harvest. A highlight of their set was "Sin-fitsu," a piece by Jones's wife, Keiko, with room for lots of explosive soloing room by one of jazz music's most important drumming stylists.

Tenor saxophonist George Coleman led an all-star rhythm section to Eilat: pianist Harold

Mabern, bassist Ray Drummond and drummer Carl Allen. The group's arrangements strayed from the standard, straight-ahead order of theme-horn-piano-bass-drums. Mabern punctuated bass and drum solos with short bursts of chords; at one point, he left it to Allen to finish the repeated phrase himself. There was also some delicious dialogue between

Drummond and Allen. Dominican-born pianist Michel Camilo's trio plays ferociously fast or with fluid lyricism, but mostly with a Latin accent. Camilo, bass guitarist Liocolln Goines and drummer Horacio Hernandez form a terrific, tight unit which over holds back on the emotional power of the music, though it is meticulously charted.

Cuban-born Hernandez is outstanding, making this a unit with the driving strength of a much bigger group.

Veteran altoist Phil Woods is backed by four solid musicians, two of whom — bassist Steve Gilmore and drummer Bill Goodwin — have been in the quintet for 23 years. But, far from going stale, they reach into their giant repertoire and produce surprises every time. With trumpeter Brian Lynch and pianist Bill Charlap, Woods's band showed how to play straight ahead without falling into the rut at the middle of the road.

Dee Dee Bridgewater, the only visiting artist who had not performed at the Red Sea festival before, presented a tribute to Horace Silver, who rose to post-bop prominence in the 1950s with his funky piano stylings and exciting blues-based compositions. Backed by a powerful rhythm section — arranger Thierry Eliez at piano, bassist Hein van de Geyn and drummer Chris Surik — Bridgewater could be saucy, deliver blisteringly fast scat or produce an invitingly breathy legato.

Some Israeli bands stood out from the crowd, particularly the three groups that benefited from the authoritative, stirring drumming of Areleh Kaminsky: the reformed Platina 1970s fusion group, the Israeli All-Stars and his own group featuring pianist Leonid Pashka.

Several groups took serious risks with their music, including free-jazz clarinetist Harold Rubin's reconstituted band Zavlot, which through more experimental than most, presented what is probably Rubin's most accessible material. The Ganelin and Essel Trios, playing in the two Israeli halls, provided some of the most challenging and unusual music of the festival.

A bang of an ending

AT about 11 at night, a nine-year-old girl — who for the previous three hours behaved herself impeccably well — became a little bit restless. "Daddy, will there be no fireworks?" she asked hesitantly. And her father immediately reassured her: "Don't worry honey, the fireworks are on their way."

And about a quarter of an hour later they came, a spectacular display of fireworks which held the tens of thousands of spectators in awe. Nobody began moving towards the parking lots until the last firework vanished in the sky. The applause was spontaneous and thunderous. It was a grand finale to a great evening of operatic fireworks.

This was an evening no one who attended will ever forget. It was an evening of spectacular vocal display, an evening of magic, an evening of music making which had smile and vivacity written all over it. And it was Israeli maestro Daniel Oren who presided with his very enthusiastic style. He led the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and six first-rate opera singers in no fewer than 25 selections, most of

CONCERT ROUNDUP
MICHAEL A. JIZENSTADT

which were very popular indeed. It is not easy to judge a singer's voice when his or her instrument comes to you through a loudspeaker, but even with the overall first-rate sound system on hand, it was quite obvious that the real star around was sensational mezzo Denyce Graves. Singing several selections from her calling-card role of Carmen and the captivating aria of Dalila, Graves showed us why she is considered one of the hottest commodities in today's opera world. Her lush, ear-aching voice, her unique timbre and her magnetic stage presence were captivating throughout.

But as much as Graves was spectacular, it was soprano Giusy Devini who stole the show. The only singer making her local debut on the occasion and a relative newcomer on the operatic scene, she emerged as a first-rate soprano who was shining in whatever she sang, whether an aria from Verdi's *La Traviata* or a duet from the same composer's *Rigoletto*.

Tenor Sergei Larin showed us why he is considered one of the finest tenors in the world today, and his rendition of the popular Russian folk song "Kalinka" brought the park down with enthusiastic applause. Baritone Leo Nucci was first rate in Verdi, especially in a duet from *Don Carlo*. Soprano Deborah Voigt was at her best in a trio from Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*, and bass Ferruccio Furlanetto stuck to lighter stuff in Mozart and Rossini, although he too is at his very best when singing Verdi.

Aud although not each and every number was as successful as the other, with Mozart emerging as inappropriate for the occasion and the musical forces around, this was a great operatic evening enjoyed by thousands of young and old music lovers who behaved in a most dignified way — suggesting that there is an audience here even for music which is considered elitist and serious.

The only question remaining is when will another such event take place?
Hayarkon Park, August 28.

The release of a new hard rock pearl

IN TUNE
DAVID BRINN

THE release of a new Pearl Jam record is an event, much in the same way that Led Zeppelin records in the 1970s or releases by The Clash in the '80s demanded the attention of the rock world. Pearl Jam is simply the highest hard-rock band active today.

With their three previous albums and now with *No Code*, they have proven that they are also the best.

Vocalist Eddie Vedder and company have inherited the tradition handed down by serious-minded rock bands of the past, from The Who to U2.

For better or worse, they exude "significance" with every chord and word, rarely lightening up for a laugh or love song as they explore the shattered generation to which they belong.

The band's grunge-meets-hippies sensibilities usually suit it well, from its notorious feud with Ticketmaster over surcharged ticket prices, to its disdain for the MTV star-making machinery. However, musically, its desire to try everything can be hit or miss. Fortunately, most of the time, they're right on target.

No Code, the band has gone to extremes.

The rockers are louder, tougher and more out of control than on previous albums, while the rest of the material is the most introspective and moving of its career. Muted and murky acoustic arrangements fight with full-blown punk anthems to create a thematic mess, out of which rise to the surface a number of top-rate songs.

Vedder is the most intense singer that rock has seen since Jim Morrison, and the quieter

numbers, like "Sometimes" and the delicately beautiful "Off He Goes" demonstrate this even better than the vocal-chord straining rockers.

"Smile" is a Neil Young and Crazy Horse sound-alike, complete with chunky guitar and harmonica, that will satisfy any Young fans who disagreed with me about the merits of his latest album. And "Mankind" is a great punk-pop rocker by anyone standards.

With Nirvana long gone, there aren't any bands around that can write and play with this emotional honesty and intensity.

Labeling them the best American rock 'n' roll band may be a bit premature, with R.E.M. still in the picture, but they certainly make their antecedents proud with this one.

based on 1970s arena rock and punk, fellow Seattle grungers Alice In Chains without a doubt favored heavy metal.

Following a handful of successful albums centered on heavy riffs and gut-thumping crunch, and shaded by a relentless darkness in outlook, the band has recorded a de-guener *Unplugged* show.

Occasionally, one of the 13 acoustic tunes catches fire due to the sheer quality of the musicianship of the band or a riveting guitar line.

But most of the songs drag on in a plodding manner.

These songs need to be felt, not heard.

Without the sonic blast provided by electric instruments, you see the gaping holes in the song-writing.

And the uniform slow tempo delivery of the pedestrian material doesn't help.

Some hands are better off plugged in.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK CHARTS

#1	WEEKS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	8	VIA	HITMAN 7 COLLECTION
#2	NEW!	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	TWO
#3	3	SHLOMO ARTZI	COLLECTION
#4	2	RITA	BIG LOVE
#5	8	RITA	OLDER
#6	11	GEORGE MICHAEL	NO CODE
#7	NEW!	PEARL JAM	TRANSPIOTTING
#8	6	SOUND TRACK	NOW 34
#9	4	VIA	THE LETTER
#10	5	AVIV GEFEN	VERY BEST OF ISRAEL
#11	7	VIA	DANA INTERNATIONAL
#12	NEW!	DANA INTERNATIONAL	MAGNIFICA
#13	17	MEIR BANAI	MANGINOT HNEDUDIM
#14	13	FUGEES	THE SCORE
#15	RE	VIA	SHINE ON VOL.2

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

Piano isn't always gentle

HELEN KAYE

Jew fires on Jew." It could have been last year's headline, the night that Yigal Amir murdered Yitzhak Rabin, but it wasn't. That Jew was Yehoshua Ossowitzky, who fired his pistol at a bunch of angry farmers during a demonstration in Rishon LeZion in 1887.

The incident is a scene from Moti Averbuch's new play, *Berta's Piano*, and director Ido Riklin, who had had the manuscript for two years, first read it a week before Rabin's assassination. "I read a historical play and in a week the play had become relevant," he says. "Taboos are breached in the play, and taboos have been breached at almost every turn of our existence here."

Berta's Piano is the story of the farmer's mutiny against the policies and practices of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, whose money had founded Rishon, and was sustaining most of the families living there who had immigrated from Russia in 1882. But the drama is mostly about Iosip Feinberg (Yigal Zaks), and it's set in his house and yard during 1887, five years after Rishon's establishment.

He set up an independent league of farmers called Peace Seekers. It sought democratic independence of action, which brought him into direct conflict with Rothschild's officials who strictly controlled all that happened in Rishon. Rothschild (Avi Pnini) continued his support for the moshav, but the price was Feinberg's expulsion.

The events of the play, from the young settlers near starvation, to that violent confrontation and to

Rothschild's sudden and dramatic visit, are all true, "and what I've left out is even more extraordinary," smiles Averbuch, whose 1993 *The Big Dress* won first prize at the Acre Theater Festival.

"Iosip's character was the source of the play," Averbuch goes on. "He really was the new Jew. He didn't come here to re-enter a ghetto. He recognized the force of democracy and human rights as opposed to the 19th century's hierarchical structure. There's something tragic in people who live before their time."

"There are still people here today who don't see democracy as a worthwhile value. Zionism is democracy to me, the joining of my Jewish heritage with a more universal cultural heritage. *Berta's Piano* is the metaphor for that." Berta (Shiri Golan) is Iosip's wife and she did bring the piano with her. Rothschild thought that it was outrageous that his newly created peasants should study piano "and recite Goethe at your parties."

"The play deals with the reason we're here," says Golan simply, "and yet it also deals with the constant erosion of ideals that follows us. The seeds of the crisis in values we're facing today was sown then."

Golan recognizes the irony in the usual struggle of ideas within the group. The early nation-builders succeeded "but the price of success included the expulsion of people like Iosip Feinberg from history."

Berta's Piano is currently previewing at the Beersheva Theater.

MARIANNE FAITHFULL
SINGING: K. WEILL/B. BRECHT

JERUSALEM THEATRE
Thursday, Sep 5 at 20.30
Tickets: "Bimot" 02-6240896, "Klaim" 02-6256869 and at the theatre Box Office 02-5810011.

TEL AVIV MANN AUDITORIUM
Saturday, Sep 7 at 20.45
Tickets: "Hadran" 03-5279797, other box offices and at the Mann Auditorium 03-5288653 at the evening of performance

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, September 3, 1996

Cairo continues preparations for economic summit

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

THE Swiss-based World Economic Forum, which sponsors the conference on Middle East economics scheduled to take place in Cairo in November, said yesterday it is proceeding with its preparatory work, regardless of the politically charged atmosphere in which it has recently been wrapped.

The organization added, however, that it is concerned a prolonged period of political inaction would make it "very difficult, if not impossible, to reconstitute economic optimism on the part of the international business community. The building of trust generated to date will be jeopardized."

In Cairo, meanwhile, Egyptian civil servants are pressing on with preparations for the conference, but opinion is divided over whether Israel will meet Egypt's conditions for the conference to take place on time, officials and diplomats said yesterday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, in the clearest statement yet on his government's minimum requirements, said on Sunday the conference could not possibly take place until Israel at least redeployed its troops in Hebron.

"It is impossible to imagine that we can talk about regional cooperation when the peace process is obstructed or paralyzed," Moussa said. "It would be illogical, out of the question."

But Raouf Saad, a deputy assistant foreign minister, said doubts about the fate of the conference had not yet disrupted work on the conference.

"In spite of all these circumstances, Egypt is making thorough preparations for the conference, in line with the timetable," he said. "Egypt wants the conference to succeed. There's an organic relationship between the peace process and regional economic cooperation. Economic cooperation cannot be complete without complete peace."

Some diplomats said there was

Panel: Central bank needs monetary council

DAVID HARRIS

THE decision-making process at the Bank of Israel needs to be more clearly defined and the governor's decisions should be made within the framework of a monetary council, according to the interim recommendations of the Zussman Committee.

The committee, which is examining the work of the central bank on behalf of Governor Jacob Frenkel, has called for the establishment of a council of five independent experts to make the decisions on monetary policy. In the current system, Frenkel receives suggestions from an advisory group.

"The committee will act like a board of directors in any busi-

ness," said Tel Aviv economics professor Zvi Zussman. "This will strengthen the decision-making process."

The establishment of such a committee, headed by Frenkel, would reduce much of the personal criticism leveled at the governor, particularly by business circles hurt by his strong-shekel policy, according to Zussman and central bank sources.

Much of the criticism of Frenkel's monetary policy is unfair, said Zussman, who said that within the current system the governor does not act indepen-

dently of his colleagues in the central bank's leadership.

"However, the council will strengthen a decision-making process which currently is insufficiently defined," said Zussman.

Frenkel, currently abroad, has been the subject of a three-year attack led by Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper and Chambers of Commerce chairman Danny Gilleman, whose main argument is that high interest rates are damaging the economy, highlighted by declining exports.

Industrialists have also been attacking Frenkel for placing inflation-fighting at the top of his agenda.



British Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine sits in the cockpit of a model Eurofighter jet at the Farnborough Airshow yesterday. The British government announced its participation in the £40 billion European project and will initially buy 232 aircraft. Story, Page 9

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Businessmen will accompany Mandela on visit here: A delegation of senior businessmen will accompany South African President Nelson Mandela when he visits here for the first time in November, government officials said this week. Originally, Mandela was to visit Israel on August 19-20, but the trip was postponed for technical reasons. President Ezer Weizman extended the invitation while attending Mandela's inauguration in May 1994.

Forty Israeli companies participated in that trip to South Africa, with each meeting up to 10 possible partners in Johannesburg. Some of the delegation also met government officials in Cape Town and Pretoria, where they were told of the intention to send the businessmen with Mandela. Israel's Foreign Ministry yesterday said it was too early to confirm the exact dates of the visit or to reveal the makeup of the delegation. While here, the group is also expected to travel to Jordan and the autonomous areas.

Last year bilateral civilian trade was worth a little more than \$400 million, two-thirds of which comprised imports into Israel, predominantly of coal.

Meanwhile, South Africa's new ambassador to Israel, Frank Land, arrived in Tel Aviv on Sunday night.

British business delegation arrives: A delegation from 11 British companies arrived here on Sunday for an eight-day visit. The British Overseas Trade Group for Israel mission includes representatives of agricultural machinery, waste management, industrial laser and conveyor belt companies.

From January to May, the average monthly imports from Britain was £120 million. The major British export sectors to Israel are electronic equipment, clothing and textiles, industrial machinery and other manufactured goods.

Gov't checks plan for Gaza industrial park

DAVID HARRIS

A NEWLY appointed government committee met for the first time on Sunday to discuss Israel's policy toward the planned PA industrial parks, including the first to be constructed at Karmi in the Gaza Strip.

The committee, which is chaired by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, also comprises the directors general of the Finance, Foreign, National Infrastructure and Industry and Trade ministries.

As a result of the meeting, two teams have been set up to examine the industrial infrastructure and security implications of the Karmi park. Papers to be presented by the two committees will form Israel's negotiating stance on the park.

The contract for the building and management of the Karmi park was awarded by the PA to Palestinian company PADIGO last month, without the apparent knowledge of either Sharansky or Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

However, PA Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Maher Masri said last week the decision to construct the Karmi park was taken with the full knowledge and agreement of the Israeli govern-

ment. Netanyahu and Sharansky met at least twice last month to consider their stance on where the park should be built, days after the PADICO contract was signed. The Palestinians want the park to be built within the PA area, but Israeli policy seems to favor constructing the park on both Israeli and PA-controlled land, with security being the responsibility of a private company.

During his visit to Israel and the territories in August, US Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat said to speed up the process.

The first stage of the park should be built entirely in the PA area, and only in a possible second phase should the park straddle the line between Israel and Gaza, he said.

While the project is guaranteed to receive \$6 million from the US, the \$14m. set aside by Israel will only be contributed once the park spreads into Israel, according to a senior source in the Industry and Trade Ministry.

Funding the zone is one of the issues to be discussed by the committee, said ministry spokeswoman Chaya Peri said.

Turks don't want delay in Iraqi oil deal

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey will appeal to the United Nations and its Western allies to reverse a UN decision to delay a \$2 billion oil-for-food plan for Iraq after fighting in the country's Kurdish north, officials said yesterday.

"We will hold appeals to the United Nations and to our allies to stop this," said a senior government official, who declined to be named. "We cannot pay the price of the developments in northern Iraq."

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali said on Sunday that he would delay implementing the

oil-for-food plan for Iraq on concerns of safety of UN oil monitors because of the deteriorating situation in northern Iraq.

According to US officials, Iraq amassed up to 40,000 troops over the weekend in northern Iraq and captured the city of Arbil, expelling one Kurdish faction and installing a rival group more favorable to Baghdad.

Earlier yesterday, Turkish Energy Minister Recai Kutan said he expected a delay "for sometime" in the flow of Iraqi oil through a trans-Turkish pipeline under the UN deal.

The government official said Turkey was opposed to "an indefinite delay of the plan."

"We are aware that things are not in our control, but we will do our best to have the implementation of the [Iraqi oil] sales realized without delay."

Officials said Turkey had lost some \$25 billion in overall trade with Iraq since the UN sanctions were in place after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Iraq was Turkey's top oil supplier and third largest trade partner before the Gulf crisis.

Because of this, the banks demand fewer guarantees of the sort it is often difficult for a new business to produce, and the program therefore removes some of the barriers such businesses normally face when they try to raise capital.

Because of the success of the program, which began operations in 1992 and has since been expanded twice, the Treasury yesterday asked the committee to approve another NIS80m. expansion of the program.

At the same time, however, it asked the committee to tighten the requirements for obtaining the loans in two ways. First, it wanted to reduce the state's overall liability from 30 percent to 20% of the total outstanding loans. And second, it wanted to increase the amount of capital applicants are required to supply - from 25% to 35% of the total cost of the project in question - in cases where 30%

Finance Committee opposes proposed cut in small-business aid

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee objected strongly yesterday to a Treasury proposal to tighten requirements for small-business loans, but deferred a vote on the proposal until Thursday.

The proposal involved the Treasury's NIS600 million fund for guaranteeing loans to small businesses. The loans are given by the banks, but a percentage is guaranteed by the government.

Because of this, the banks demand fewer guarantees of the sort it is often difficult for a new business to produce, and the program therefore removes some of the barriers such businesses normally face when they try to raise capital.

However, the committee deferred a vote after discovering that the Treasury had never even consulted the Industry and Trade Ministry about these changes. It therefore ordered the Treasury to do so, and to come back with this ministry's comments on Thursday.

According to the Treasury, the program has received some 6,000 applications in the past four years, of which 2,700, worth a total of NIS590m., have been approved. Of the accepted applications, 39% have been from new companies and 7% have been for businesses started by new immigrants.

The five-year loans, which are for a maximum of NIS500,000 per company, are earmarked for firms with 70 or fewer employees. In a survey conducted by the banks, some 60% of the successful applicants said they would not have implemented the projects for which they received the loans had this program not existed.

Saudi Arabia starts payment of pharmaceutical debt

DUBAI (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia has started paying part of hundreds of millions of dollars in arrears to international suppliers, industry sources and bankers said yesterday.

They said the payments to suppliers mostly from Europe and the US started in the last week of August.

"We are encouraged... The process of repaying has started slowly but definitely," one source at an international company said from his office in Saudi Arabia.

Some of the biggest European and US companies had been pressing the Saudi government to settle the arrears, some going back to 1993.

Industry sources put the arrears at close to \$1 billion.

But Kevin Taacker, chief economist at the Saudi American Bank

said in his economic outlook for September total arrears to medical suppliers and contractors stood at \$2b. to \$3b.

He said the Saudi cabinet had recently "resolved to pay some \$2b. to \$3b. in amounts owed to medical suppliers and contractors at a rate of 20 percent per year over five years in cash, but without a promissory note."

The pharmaceutical executive confirmed that bigger suppliers would be paid over five years, but it was not clear when these payments would start.

Experts say Saudi Arabia is one of the Middle East's largest consumers of pharmaceutical products, with the size of the market valued at more than \$800 million (three billion riyals) annually, of which local production accounts for less than 15 percent.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.7.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.875	5.375
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.875	4.000	4.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.250
Yen (10 million yen)	1.000	1.125	1.500

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (2.9.96)			
CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		Rep. Rates
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5084	3.5590	3.5402
German mark	3.1159	3.1882	3.1440
French franc	2.1015	2.1354	2.1170
Japanese yen (100)	4.8706	4.9426	4.9138
Dutch florin	0.8145	0.8246	0.8198
Swiss franc	2.2689	2.3030	2.2863
Spanish peseta (100)	1.5744	1.6047	1.5944
Swedish krona	2.5883	2.6281	2.5787
Norwegian krona	0.4701	0.4777	0.4744
Danish krone	0.4938	0.5008	0.4973
Finnish mark	0.5438	0.5528	0.5481
Canadian dollar	0.6928	0.7040	0.6984
Australian dollar	2.2704	2.3132	2.2925
S. African rand	2.4615	2.5013	2.4849
Belgian franc (10)	0.8887	0.9080	0.8983
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0206	1.0371	1.0269
Italian lira (1000)	2.9857	3.0348	2.9908
Jordanian dinar	2.0822	2.0958	2.0890
Egyptian pound (E.P.)	4.3300	4.6300	4.4800
Irish punt	0.8800	0.8900	0.8850
Spanish peseta (100)	3.9553	4.0259	3.9850
	3.0633	3.1349	3.0988
	2.4878	2.5278	2.5077

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

comes a high... an enormous flight of black...
 A few nights ago, an enormous flight of black...
 صكزا من الراجل

Japan prosecutors to probe huge losses at Sumitomo

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japanese prosecutors are to launch a special task force this month to probe huge losses on unauthorized copper trading by a Sumitomo Corp trader and question company officials, sources close to the case said.

The Tokyo District Public Prosecutor's Office plans to probe the case with a view to charging Yasuo Hamanaka, 48, the trader blamed by Sumitomo for the \$1.8 billion loss, with breach of trust, sources close to the case said.

"The Tokyo prosecutor's office is going to set up a special task force within this month with up to five or six specialists," a source close to the prosecutor's office said. "As a first step, they will start questioning Sumitomo Corp officials who had connections with Hamanaka."

The Sumitomo officials to be questioned soon by the Tokyo prosecutor's office include Masahiro Mogari, who worked as a senior copper trader until July, and Akio Imamura, general manager of its non-ferrous metals division, they said.

A copper trader who is currently assigned to its New York branch is also on the prosecutors' list, they said.

Sumitomo, one of Japan's giant trading houses, said on June 13 that Hamanaka lost the money in unauthorized copper trading, mainly on the London Metal Exchange, over a 10-year period.

It fired Hamanaka in June 14, and he has been in seclusion at his home without commenting on the matter.

US and British law enforcement authorities have already opened investigations into the case to determine if any illegal trading practices were involved in their countries.

In early August, Britain's Serious Fraud Office searched the homes of two British businessmen as part of its probe.

When the Tokyo prosecutors will interview Hamanaka, the man at the heart of the scandal, is unclear, sources said.

Hamanaka emerged from hiding on Sunday to reveal that for the past two months he has evaded the media and overseas authorities who wanted to question him simply by staying secluded at his own home.

"I have been living in my home

since leaving Sumitomo," Hamanaka said. He first came out of hiding three weeks ago when he met a Reuters reporter.

Asked when he would give his side of the story of the world's biggest financial trading loss, Hamanaka replied: "I have nothing to say on that."

He also declined comment on whether he expected to face legal action, either by Sumitomo or authorities, over trading losses.

Meanwhile, Sumitomo reiterated that it will continue to cooperate with investigative authorities.

"We have been cooperating and will fully cooperate with official probes," a Sumitomo spokesman said. But he refused to comment on Tokyo prosecutors' launch of the task force.

Shares rise as traders speculate on takeovers

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



SHARES rose for the fifth straight session yesterday as investors speculated about the next publicly traded companies that might be bought up by their parent companies.

Inflation estimates reported in the press also may have had a hand in the stocks' advance, said Daniella Finn, head of sales at the securities firm Banca in Tel Aviv. Lower inflation rates raises hopes that the central bank will cut interest rates, easing corporate borrowing costs and helping profits.

"The general atmosphere is parent companies buying shares of their subsidiaries and the control struggles that are sending prices sky high," she said. "People are trying to bet on what's the next stock to run up."

Stocks leading the indexes include coffee and candy producer Elite Industries Ltd., which climbed four percent after being as much as 8% higher, and Koor Industries Ltd., which increased its holding in subsidiary Tadiran Ltd. Koor finished up 1.5%, while Tadiran rose 0.2%.

The Two-Sided Index advanced 0.56% to 183.73, while the Maof Index climbed 0.21% to 193.66. The most active issue was Koor, which traded NIS7.7 million

worth of shares.

The market has seen a spate of investments, from local and foreign companies, that have brought out what analysts have insisted was value that the market had ignored.

Recent examples include Israel Corp. paying 35% over the market price for the rest of its Piryon investment subsidiary; Nestlé SA, the Swiss foods giant, increasing its holding in Osem Investments Ltd. by exercising an option; and the NIS3 billion valuation placed on insurer Migdal when Bank Leumi decided to spin the company off.

Bank Hapoalim, the country's largest bank, pegs August's inflation rate at 0.6%, while Banca itself expects 0.8%, Finn said. The rate was 0.3% for July.

Central Bank Governor Jacob Frenkel has said that he expects inflation in the second half to run at less than the 7% of the first half.

The central bank, following the July report, cut the rate it charges banks for loans 0.5 percentage point to 15.8%.

Higher rates, which the central bank has used to control inflation, make expansion more expensive, cutting into corporate profits and often into stock prices. (Bloomberg)

Study: EMU won't hurt financial contracts 'vote of confidence'

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Investors have little to fear from a single European currency in any legal sense, as their rights to redeem investments in the currency of their choice will remain in force, a new study showed yesterday.

Worries that a contract denominated in a national currency would not be redeemable in the same currency after the start of economic and monetary union (EMU) are unfounded, say Charles Proctor and Gilles Thieffry of Norton Rose, a London law firm.

While the European Commission has already gone to great lengths to dispel such concerns, Proctor and Thieffry say the nature of British and international law currently provides investors with ample protection.

"English law already has at its disposal the tools which are necessary for dealing effectively with EMU and continuity of contracts; and existing contracts will continue in force, EMU notwithstanding," the authors write.

Since much of Europe's currency and bond trading is conducted in London, English law is seen as the relevant factor for many investors.

Under English law a financial contract could be terminated by the "doctrine of frustration" if its obligations become incapable of being met or the nature and quality of meeting them changes radically. But the doctrine could not apply

to a contract "merely on the ground that it is expressed in a national currency which participates in the changeover" to the single currency.

"EMU and the changeover to Euro cannot result in the frustration or termination of a contract governed by English law; any contracting party who seeks to allege otherwise will be on course for an expensive disappointment," they added.

A separate question is the legal standing of financial contracts entered into in London but written in law outside of Britain. A large percentage of such contracts are under New York law, but again, the risks to investors are considered minimal.

Given the constraints of international law, "New York courts would have to recognize the Euro and give effect to the officially stipulated exchange rates," the study says.

"Otherwise, the US would be placed in breach of an obligation which it owes to Euro-participating states."

Agreement on a legal framework for EMU is one of major hurdles the European Union faces this year in ensuring the Euro is launched smoothly on January 1, 1999.

Financial markets want a framework in place as soon as possible so that the necessary preparatory work for the changeover process can begin.

FARNBOROUGH, England (Reuters) - Europe's four nation consortium building the controversial Eurofighter combat aircraft called Britain's decision yesterday to proceed to the production stage and buy 232 planes a huge vote of confidence.

"We have got a little way to go in terms of getting the other governments to support [the production contract], but I still think it's a colossal vote of confidence," John Weston, chairman of British Aerospace's defense arm, told reporters at the Farnborough air show.

"We would emphasize that Eurofighter will ensure that the European aerospace industry remains at the forefront of technology," he added.

As the show opened, Britain announced it was confirming its commitment to press on toward a production investment contract which would allow BAe and its partners Daimler Aerospace, Alenia SpA of Italy and Spain's CASA to gear up for manufacturing planes for service.

The industrial partners hope to sign a four-way memorandum of understanding with the governments by the end of the year.

The three other governments are preparing the final paperwork to allow the parallel processes to be finalized, and spokesmen for the other member companies said they

were confident it would be done by the year end.

Although the German parliament has yet to give its final approval to a Luftwaffe order for 180 planes, Bill McNaughton, Eurofighter's managing director, said that the company was encouraged by the fact that a pricing decision is ready.

"We don't anticipate any problems [in Germany]," he said.

Executives said they were confident that the development and outline production programs are coming together on plan and with minimal cost variance from the planned levels.

Weston said he was sure that, after a radical streamlining of the group's production plans, construction times would be cut to a level where it would be possible to deliver Eurofighter to its first customer, Britain's RAF, in 2001.

He added that the price would be "more competitive" than the Tornado, the three-nation fighter-bomber which the new warplane is set to replace in the UK.

In the world market, he added, Eurofighter would be able to produce its plane "in broad terms at about the same cost" as the McDonnell Douglas F-15, its closest current rival.

However, Eurofighter is claiming its aircraft has two and a half times the combat capability of such planes.

Oil prices advance strongly; dollar well supported

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Oil prices advanced strongly yesterday after the United Nations put oil sales by Iraq on ice, while the dollar and petroleum share prices also benefited from renewed tension in the Middle East.

"This is a real kick for the markets," said Oystein Berentsen, crude trading manager for Norway's Statoil, after the UN delayed implementation of an oil-for-food deal following weekend incursions by Iraqi troops into Kurdish areas.

"The question may be not when will Iraqi oil sales start but whether they will start," said energy analyst Geoff Pyne at Swiss finance house UBS.

The Kurdish situation aided the dollar, often a safe haven currency, but dealers said a more vital factor was growing speculation on higher US interest rates by the end of the year.

"The Iraqi stuff is a small support. The main factor is the possibility of higher US rates," said one British bank dealer.

"In the short term the dollar looks quite well supported as the market is gearing itself up for a rise in US interest rates," said Elisabeth Legge at Bankgesellschaft Berlin.

But she added that the depressing effect of strong data on the bond market could also sap some of the dollar's strength.

Buoyant oil shares following the rise in crude prices led the London stock market, Europe's highest, in recouping some recent losses. Helped by higher bond prices, it ended near its highs for the day despite earlier interest rate concerns.

Other key European bourses put on a mixed performance. Dealers on various European markets said the Labor Day holiday in the US kept trading activity low.

In late afternoon business on London's International Petroleum Exchange, October futures for benchmark Brent crude were more than \$1 higher at \$21.80 a barrel. The price of jet fuel hit its highest level for five years.

Traders had been expecting Iraq's first oil sales for six years since the Gulf War to hit markets in the next few weeks.

"With demand so strong and oil stocks so low, the market was looking as if it could quite easily have absorbed some Iraqi exports," Berentsen said.

UN officials said Iraqi troops had now evacuated Arbil, Iraq Kurdistan's capital which they captured on Saturday.

London shares had earlier slipped from their highs after strong British data dimmed hopes of a rate cut after the next monetary meeting between Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke and Bank of England Governor Eddie George tomorrow.

The August PMI purchasing managers index rose to 51.8, its highest in a year. A majority of economists polled tipped Clarke to resist the temptation to cut rates.

But many said the situation was finely balanced and some felt Clarke could snatch a chance to cut rates one more time before an election, which must be held by May 1997.

German shares ended lower as the US holiday dashed hopes of the market finding new impetus, and showed only limited gains in later electronic trading.

The inclination to do business was also lacking in Paris, but the bourse there ended a five-session losing streak to close higher, helped by firmer bonds and bullish oil stocks.

Euro Disney shares rallied almost five percent after saying it was on track to show a second annual profit.

The dollar rose well above 1.48 marks and hit six-week highs above 109 yen ahead of the next major statistics, which may hold clues on where US interest rates might be going and when.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading			Two-sided trading		
Name	Price	% Change	Name	Price	% Change
Bank Leumi	129.25	0.2	Bank Leumi	129.25	0.2
Bank Hapoalim	115.00	-0.5	Bank Hapoalim	115.00	-0.5
Bank Mizrahi	105.00	0.1	Bank Mizrahi	105.00	0.1
Bank Hapoalim (A)	115.00	-0.5	Bank Hapoalim (A)	115.00	-0.5
Bank Mizrahi (A)	105.00	0.1	Bank Mizrahi (A)	105.00	0.1
Bank Leumi (A)	129.25	0.2	Bank Leumi (A)	129.25	0.2
Bank Hapoalim (B)	115.00	-0.5	Bank Hapoalim (B)	115.00	-0.5
Bank Mizrahi (B)	105.00	0.1	Bank Mizrahi (B)	105.00	0.1
Bank Leumi (B)	129.25	0.2	Bank Leumi (B)	129.25	0.2
Bank Hapoalim (C)	115.00	-0.5	Bank Hapoalim (C)	115.00	-0.5
Bank Mizrahi (C)	105.00	0.1	Bank Mizrahi (C)	105.00	0.1
Bank Leumi (C)	129.25	0.2	Bank Leumi (C)	129.25	0.2
Bank Hapoalim (D)	115.00	-0.5	Bank Hapoalim (D)	115.00	-0.5
Bank Mizrahi (D)	105.00	0.1	Bank Mizrahi (D)	105.00	0.1
Bank Leumi (D)	129.25	0.2	Bank Leumi (D)	129.25	0.2

Key Representative Rates

Change

US dollar ... NIS 3.1440 +0.06%

Sterling ... NIS 4.9133 +0.41%

Mark ... NIS 2.1210 -0.09%

INTEL STOCK MARKETS

Other stock market indexes

Index	Value	% Change
FTSE 100	2864.4	+0.18
Dow Jones	8707.1	+0.38
Nikkei	15239	+0.25
Hong Kong	9747	+0.12

LONDON

Instrument	Value	% Change
10-year Gilt	114.40	+0.01
12-month	112.80	+0.01
18-month	112.20	+0.01
24-month	111.60	+0.01
30-month	111.00	+0.01
36-month	110.40	+0.01
42-month	109.80	+0.01
48-month	109.20	+0.01
54-month	108.60	+0.01
60-month	108.00	+0.01

PARIS

Instrument	Value	% Change
10-year Gilt	114.40	+0.01
12-month	112.80	+0.01
18-month	112.20	+0.01
24-month	111.60	+0.01
30-month	111.00	+0.01
36-month	110.40	+0.01
42-month	109.80	+0.01
48-month	109.20	+0.01
54-month	108.60	+0.01
60-month	108.00	+0.01

INTEL MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Instrument	Value	% Change
1-month	1.4800	+0.0002
3-month	1.4800	+0.0002
6-month	1.4800	+0.0002
9-month	1.4800	+0.0002
12-month	1.4800	+0.0002

Labor rates

Instrument	Value	% Change
1-month	0.0000	0.0000
3-month	0.0000	0.0000
6-month	0.0000	0.0000
9-month	0.0000	0.0000
12-month	0.0000	0.0000

Foreign financial data courtesy of

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INTEL COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Instrument	Value	% Change
Gold (COMEX)	380.00	0.00
Silver (COMEX)	5.10	0.00
Copper (COMEX)	1.20	0.00
Crude Oil (NYMEX)	22.00	0.00
Wheat (CBOT)	3.00	0.00
Corn (CBOT)	1.50	0.00

London commodities

Instrument	Value	% Change
Gold (COMEX)	380.00	0.00
Silver (COMEX)	5.10	0.00
Copper (COMEX)	1.20	0.00
Crude Oil (NYMEX)	22.00	0.00
Wheat (CBOT)	3.00	0.00
Corn (CBOT)	1.50	0.00

Spot market metals (US)

Instrument	Value	% Change
Gold (COMEX)	380.00	0.00
Silver (COMEX)	5.10	0.00
Copper (COMEX)	1.20	0.00
Crude Oil (NYMEX)	22.00	0.00
Wheat (CBOT)	3.00	0.00
Corn (CBOT)	1.50	0.00

London metal fixes

Instrument	Value	% Change
Gold (COMEX)	380.00	0.00
Silver (COMEX)	5.10	0.00
Copper (COMEX)	1.20	0.00
Crude Oil (NYMEX)	22.00	0.00
Wheat (CBOT)	3.00	0.00
Corn (CBOT)	1.50	0.00

DRIVE CAREFULLY

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFr	FFr	
STERLING	2.3192/02	0.4309/15	73.28/39	0.8139/38	3.4208/13
YEN	1.3822/34	0.5872/78	1.1701/27	1.8858/87	7.5325/52
SFr	122.84/86	0.5255/02	90.18/21	—	4.5227/70
FFr	0.2822/24	0.1280/61	21.42/47	0.2377/78	—

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

THE PEOPLE YOU CAN BANK ON

Hingis upsets Sanchez Vicario

'New-look' Maccabi TA faces Aris Saloniki tonight

JOEL GORDIN

NEW YORK (AP) - Top-seeded and defending champion Steffi Graf delayed the ascent of the future of women's tennis yesterday, defeating 15-year-old Anna Koumnikova of Russia and advancing to the quarter-finals of the US Open.

Graf dropped her serve to begin the match, then methodically thrashed her young foe 6-2, 6-1 in 51 minutes.

Earlier, another 15-year-old, Martina Hingis of Switzerland, upset third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 in a fourth-round match.

It was vintage Graf, who is seeking her fifth US Open title and her third straight Grand Slam championship. She won both the French Open and Wimbledon by beating Sanchez Vicario in the final.

Graf stroked 23 winners as opposed to 21 unforced errors as she dictated play. Koumnikova, making her US Open debut, had seven winners and 31 unforced errors.

Koumnikova held serve only once - in the sixth game of the opening set. And even then, she had to battle back from love-30.

Hingis, the No. 16 seed from Switzerland, closed out her victory over Sanchez Vicario who, normally steady from the baseline, sailed a backhand long on the first match point.

Hingis raced through the first set in 19 minutes, a mirror image of Sanchez Vicario with bigger groundstrokes. Both players ran down every shot, but it was Hingis who was almost perfect, making only four unforced errors in the set.

It appeared Hingis might win in straight sets, when, at deuce in the seventh game of the second set, she stroked a ball that landed on the baseline. The point, if she had won it, would have given Hingis the advantage, one point away from a service break to give the Swiss youngster a 4-3 lead.

But umpire Jane Harvey incorrectly overruled the line judge and gave the point to Sanchez Vicario. After Hingis netted the next point,



JUMPING FOR JOY - Martina Hingis celebrates after stopping Arantxa Sanchez Vicario yesterday.

allowing Sanchez Vicario to hold serve, she flung her racket to the base of the umpire's chair.

With her concentration broken, Hingis began making a stream of errors, which Sanchez Vicario capitalized on to win the second set.

Sanchez Vicario broke Hingis at 15 in the first game of the third set, then held for 2-0. Hingis leveled the match 2-2 when she broke

back in the fourth game. That set up the wild finish that saw three consecutive breaks of serve.

It was Sanchez Vicario who bent first, losing her serve at 15 in the eighth game. That meant Hingis was serving for the match.

Instead, she lost her serve at love, the last point coming when Sanchez Vicario rifled a backhand passing shot down the line.

But Sanchez Vicario was unable to capitalize on the tension-filled game. When she won the second point of the game with a backhand pass to pull even at 15-15, Sanchez Vicario let out a primal scream.

Two points and two unforced errors later, Hingis was at match point, 15-40. As the two battled from the baseline, the umpire called a let when the wind blew a water bottle onto the court.

It only delayed the inevitable under the blazing sun. One hour, 45 minutes, after they began, Hingis had her first career victory over Sanchez Vicario in two matches and a spot in the quarter-finals.

Also winning a fourth-round match today was Judith Wiesner of Austria, who downed Italy's Rita Grande 6-0, 6-3.

In other action, Linda Wild of the US got past Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport 6-2, 3-6, 6-0 to gain a berth in the women's quarter-finals.

Davenport came into the US Open riding a winning streak that saw her win the Olympic gold medal in the Atlanta Olympics and a WTA Tour tournament in Manhattan Beach, California, where she beat Steffi Graf.

But it was Wild, ranked 32nd in the world, who raced to a 5-0 first-set lead. Then, after Davenport leveled the match at one set apiece, Wild sped through the final set in 21 minutes, her passing shots finding the lines and the corners while Davenport could only watch.

Besides Todd Martin who lost to Briton Tim Henman 6-2, 7-6(7-4), 6-4; No. 16 Cedric Pioline of France also was ousted. Pioline fell to Australia's Mark Philippoussis, who had 25 aces in the 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory.

Also No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia beat Germany's Hendrik Dreekmann 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(13-11); No. 2 Monica Seles stopped France's Sandrine Testud 7-5, 6-0; No. 4 Conchita Martinez of Spain defeated Sweden's Asa Carlsson 6-2, 6-1; and Amanda Coetzer of South Africa downed American Lisa Raymond 6-4, 6-1.

MACCABI Tel Aviv basketball fans will have the first opportunity to judge their face-lifted team when the fifth annual Tel Aviv Basketball Tournament opens at Yad Elyahu tonight.

Maccabi is pitted against Aris Saloniki in the second game, starting at 9 pm. In the first game, at 7 pm, Panionios meets German league champions Bayer Leverkusen.

The losers will meet tomorrow night at 7 pm, with the winners playing in the finals at 9 pm.

The new-look Maccabi squad started on the right foot in two recent warm-up tournaments in Italy and Argentina, where it won eight games without a loss. In Italy it beat European clubs of the caliber of Stefanel Milano, Efes Pilsen and Ulker.

"We still have a lot of work to do, but there is good chemistry between the players and I think we'll have a great season," said new team captain Nadav Henefeld at a press conference last Friday.

He succeeds former captain Doron Jamchee, who together with Motti Daniel, Tomer Steinhauer, Radisav Curcic, Tom Chambers and Jeff Kent all left the team. They were replaced by Doron Sheffer, Randy White, Buck Johnson, Borko Radovic, Derek Sharp and Constantin Popo.

White, who has played several seasons in Europe as well as for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, was even more confident. "This team is going to make the Final Four," he predicted.

The match-up with Aris will be a sentimental occasion for Maccabi head coach Zvi Sherf who steered

the Greek club to its proudest moment when it won the European Cup in 1993.

Aris, like Maccabi, has made many changes in recent years and is now an unknown quantity. Crack Greek internationals Panaitis Yanakios and Nicki Galis have both left.

This season, the club's play will revolve around new American center Charles Shackelford, who has played with the New Jersey Nets and Phonola Caserta. Another player to watch is center Jose Ortiz, who represented Puerto Rico at the Atlanta Olympics.

The first game will feature the return to Israel of sharpshooter Tony Dawson, in the colors of Leverkusen, which has won the German league seven straight times. Five years ago, Dawson played for Betar Tel Aviv when that club was in the National League. His NBA-style dunks and eagle eye delighted local fans. The team's second American is frisky point guard Kevin Pritchard.

Sherf will cast a watchful eye on Panionios, which will be one of Maccabi's early opponents in the European championships. The club has also acquired two new Americans: Keith Gatling from the German club Hagen and Mitchell Wiggins, from Athens Sporting Club.

Greek hoops fans have shown a big interest in the tournament, which will be shown live on Greek television. Sports Channel will also carry live broadcasts. The tournament is named in memory of Fini Lavie, former head of the basketball division at the Tel Aviv Municipality's sports department.

Swans finish top of AFL

MELBOURNE (AP) - Sydney beat the West Coast Eagles by 35 points in a waterlogged match Saturday to finish on top of the Australian Football League.

The Swans won the match 12.13 (85) to 6.14 (50) without the services of star full-forward Tony Lockett, who missed the game because of his chronic knee injury. It was the Swans' first Australian Rules football win over West Coast since 1992.

The ground was soaked and muddy after taking more than five inches of rain in 24 hours.

Sydney opens the finals round next Saturday against Hawthorn at the Sydney Cricket Ground in one of four qualifying rounds

to be played. In matches Sunday, Fremantle beat Fitzroy 24.13 (157) to 10.11 (71) and North Melbourne defeated Richmond 21.15 (141) to 16.13 (109).

The Richmond loss enabled Hawthorn to sneak into the eighth and final playoff spot. On Saturday, Hawthorn edged Melbourne 15.12 (102) to 15.11 (101) with skipper Jason Dunstall kicking 10 goals, including his 100th of the season.

In other playoff matches, West Coast (fourth) will play host to Carlton (fifth), Essendon (sixth) will travel north to play Brisbane (third) and North Melbourne (second) will play Geelong (seventh).

Collingwood ended Brisbane's hopes for a first-place finish by beating the Bears by 49 points - 15.10 (100) to 6.15 (51) - on Saturday.

Carlton beat Geelong by 42 points, 16.11 (107) to 9.11 (65), with Carlton's Justin Murphy kicking five goals.

St. Kilda beat Adelaide by 69 points, winning 20.24 (144) to 11.9 (75). St. Kilda full-forward Peter Evccritt dominated with seven goals, while teammate Stewart Loeve kicked four.

On Friday, Essendon needed a last-minute goal from Mark Mercuri to make it past a tough Footscray squad 11.13 (79) to 11.10 (76).

College football's Top 25

How the top 25 teams in The AP's college football poll fared this week:

No. 1 Nebraska (0-0) did not play. Next vs. Michigan State, Saturday.

No. 2 Tennessee (1-0) beat UNLV 62-3. Next: vs. UCLA, Saturday.

No. 3 Florida State (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Duke, Saturday.

No. 4 Florida (1-0) beat SW Louisiana 55-21. Next: vs. Georgia Southern, Saturday.

No. 5 Colorado (1-0) beat Washington State 37-19. Next: at Colorado State, Saturday.

No. 6 Notre Dame (0-0) did not play. Next: at Vanderbilt, Thursday.

No. 7 Penn State (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. Louisville, Saturday.

No. 8 Texas (1-0) beat Missouri 40-10. Next: vs. New Mexico State, Saturday.

No. 9 Ohio State (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Rice, Saturday.

No. 10 Syracuse (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina, Saturday.

No. 11 Miami (1-0) beat Memphis 30-7. Next: vs. Citadel, Saturday.

No. 12 Michigan (1-0) beat Illinois 20-8. Next: at No. 5 Colorado, Sept. 14.

No. 13 Alabama (1-0) beat Bowling Green 21-7. Next: vs. University of Southern Mississippi, Saturday.

No. 14 Virginia Tech (0-0) did not play. Next: at Akron, Saturday.

No. 15 Northwestern (0-0) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Saturday.

No. 16 Auburn (1-0) beat Alabama 29-0. Next: vs. Fresno State, Saturday.

No. 17 Southern Cal (0-1) did not play. Next: at Illinois, Saturday.

No. 18 LSU (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Houston, Saturday.

No. 19 Brigham Young (2-0) beat Arkansas State 58-9. Next: at Washington, Sept. 14.

No. 20 Arizona State (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Washington, Saturday.

No. 21 Kansas State (1-0) beat Texas Tech 21-14. Next: vs. Indiana State.

No. 22 Iowa (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona, Saturday.

No. 23 Texas A&M (0-1) did not play. Next: SW Louisiana, Sept. 14.

No. 24 Virginia (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Central Michigan, Saturday.

No. 25 Kansas (1-0) beat Ball State 35-10, Thursday. Next: at Texas Christian, Sept. 14.

Paraguay 'keeper scores in World Cup weekend; Shearer strikes for England

LONDON (Reuters) - Paraguay goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert scored from a free kick. Faustino Asprilla inspired Colombia with a hat-trick and Alan Shearer, soccer's costliest player, made a winning start as England captain.

The exploits of this trio marked a weekend of vivid World Cup action as European teams began in earnest a journey already started by those in South America, with France in 1998 as the ultimate destination.

Qualifying for the finals of the game's most prestigious tournament was being contested by South American countries even before a ball had been kicked in Euro 96, and Colombia is setting a lively pace.

Colombia stayed top of the nine-team South American group, from which the top four qualify, after Asprilla's hat-trick enabled it to trounce Chile 4-1 in the steamy Caribbean port of Barranquilla.

Striker Asprilla, who plays for Newcastle, scored with two first-half headers but kept his best effort for early in the second half when he pierced a demoralized defense and scored with a powerful left-foot shot.

Equally stunning was Chilavert's free kick to earn unfancied Paraguay a 1-1 draw against Argentina in Buenos Aires where his 25-meter shot beat the defensive wall and went into the net off rival 'keeper German Burgos.

Chilavert also pulled off a splendid save to deny Gabriel Batistuta a last-gasp winner for Argentina, which has disappointed, winning only one of its four qualifying matches.

England, seeking to build on the improvement it showed as hosts of the European championship



ONE ON ONE - England striker Alan Shearer (r) fights for the ball against Moldova's Ion Testemitanu in Sunday's World Cup qualifier.

finals, launched its World Cup campaign with a 3-0 win over Moldova in Chisinau.

Shearer, bought by Newcastle from Blackburn for £15 million just before the recent start of the English season, sealed victory with the third goal after strikes

from Nick Barmby and Paul Gascoigne.

New skipper Shearer made it a double celebration with new coach Glenn Hoddle, who started his reign as England coach in succession to Terry Venables on a winning note.

Hoddle was among a number of new men in charge of European teams, though not all enjoyed such an encouraging start as the England boss.

Switzerland, now guided by Rolf Fringer, lost 1-0 in Azerbaijan while Turkey, with Mustafa Denizli having taken over from Fatih Terim, went down 2-1 to Belgium in Brussels in a game marred by crowd trouble.

Turkish fans, upset by their team's 2-0 first-half deficit, tore up plastic seats and threw them over the fence. Riot police took around 10 minutes to restore order. There were 50 arrests, mostly outside the stadium early in the second half.

It was on the same site in the Heysel stadium riot that 39 people died before the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus. The stadium has since been razed, rebuilt and renamed the King Baudouin stadium after the country's fifth monarch.

Arnar Jorge, who has returned to coach his native Portugal after an unhappy stint with Switzerland, saw his new charges draw 0-0 in Armenia.

The new team chief with former European champions Denmark, Swedish-born Bo Johansson, got off to a victorious start when Allan Nielsen and Soeren Andersen scored in the last 12 minutes to overcome Slovenia 2-0 in Ljubljana.

Spain, beaten quarter-finalists in Euro 96, launches its bid for a berth in the finals when it travels to play the Faroe Islands tomorrow.

The next round of qualifying matches is early next month when European champions Germany makes its entrance with a trip to Armenia.

Roberts wins GMO in playoff; new pro Woods finishes 60th

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Loren Roberts won the Greater Milwaukee Open making use of a little advice he likes to give rookies like Tiger Woods: Do your own thing.

"You'll do fine out here if you just keep your head down and stick with what works for you and play your game and don't let anybody push you around," Roberts said.

Roberts, 41, sank a 6-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole Sunday to defeat local hero Jerry Kelly in a tournament dominated by the 20-year-old Woods' professional debut (See today's World of Sport magazine, p. 9).

Although Woods tied for 60th, he did thrill the crowd at Brown Deer Park golf course Sunday with a hole-in-one.

Roberts' victory came after he and Kelly finished with 19-under-par 265s, a low for the GMO.

Roberts, who closed with a 3-under 68, made a 4 on the par-5 18th that served as the playoff hole and won \$216,000. The victory boosts Roberts, who won the MCI Classic earlier this year, to 23rd on the money list with \$659,068.

Kelly, of Madison, Wisconsin, a PGA Tour rookie, finished with a 64 to earn \$129,600.

Israel winless in youth volleyball tourney

HEATHER CHAIT

ISRAEL ended its run in the preliminary rounds of the European Youth Volleyball Championships in Ra'anana with a fifth consecutive defeat yesterday.

The hosts went down 3-0 to Yugoslavia, losing 15-4, 15-6, 15-8.

Israel is now relegated to the fight for the 9-12 spots in the final rounds which begin tomorrow, having ended the preliminary rounds in last place among the 12 competing nations.

Russia beat the Ukraine 3-0 and the Netherlands won against Belgium, also 3-0.

Russia and the Netherlands are the two teams from Pool 2, Israel's group, to contest the four top places in the tournament.

In Pool 1, Finland beat France 3-1 yesterday and Greece beat Belarus 3-1.

The two teams to advance from Pool 1 are Poland and Italy. Poland was a 3-1 winner over Italy last night.

Results of 4-day county championship matches yesterday.

At Bristol: Gloucestershire beat Northamptonshire by 15 runs. Gloucestershire 183 and 249. Northamptonshire 190 and 227. Gloucester 20 points, Northants 4.

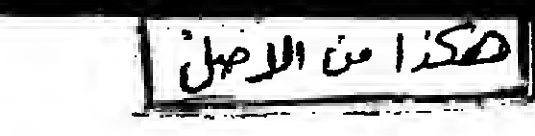
At Headingley: Yorkshire beat Essex by 98 runs. Yorkshire 290 and 329. Essex 372 and 149 (R. Stemp 5-38). Yorkshire 22 points, Essex 8.

At Hove: Lancashire beat Sussex by five wickets. Sussex 363 and 144. Lancashire 218 and 290-5 (J. Crawley 112 not out, N. Fairbrother 79). Lancashire 21 points, Sussex 8.

At Tunbridge Wells: Kent beat Nottinghamshire by seven wickets. Nottinghamshire 214 and 242 (C. Tolley 67, K. Evans 54, M. Ealham 5-52). Kent 244 and 215-3 (C. Hooper 86, T. Ward 54 not out). Kent 21 points, Nottinghamshire 5.

English County Championship Standings table with columns for Team, P, W, L, D, Bat. P, Bowl. P, Total.

Joseph Hoffman Sports Editor



Mordechai urges Germany to foil Iran's nuclear aims

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

DEVELOPING military links with Germany will introduce Israel into more European markets, visiting German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe said yesterday.

"I want to thank you for the support Germany is giving Israel," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said at a press conference following a two-hour meeting with Ruehe. "The relations between the two military establishments are very close and advance the security interests of both countries."

But, he added, "I want to take this opportunity to urge you to make every effort to prevent countries like Iran to get hold of nuclear weapons or other kinds of lethal weapons, to reduce their capability to equip themselves with long-range missiles which are able to hit Israel, to join us in fighting terrorism in the Middle East and around the world, and to help Israel to maintain its strength against present threats and mainly against future threats."

Defense ties with Germany are developing at a rapid pace, and Germany now ranks second, after the United States, in defense-related business.

Germany is building three diesel-powered submarines for the Israeli Navy. It is paying for two of them, and the two countries are splitting the cost of the third. Hundreds of Israeli troops have traveled to Germany to give and receive training. Israeli military industries are supplying the Germans with advanced avionics and missile systems.

Germany and Israel have a running program of cooperation. Last year, 25 IDF personnel underwent technical submarine training in preparation. Nine officers attended the Ground Forces Staff College in Germany and 26 received anti-chemical warfare training.

Mordechai thanked Germany for its help in brokering the return of the bodies of St-Sgts. Rahamin Alsheikh and Yosef Fink in an exchange with Hizbullah. Ruehe promised that his country would

continue the search for missing IAF navigator Ron Arad.

"I know that those in Germany who deal with this problem will do everything in their power and their knowledge to help, and I hope that we can be successful," Ruehe said. "We are only too eager and we hope very much that we can be helpful in the future."

Mordechai warmly greeted Ruehe at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. They stood at attention as the IDF band played the German national anthem. Ruehe then reviewed the troops, pausing to bow his head before the Israeli flag.

"We remember our history and the tragedy that happened to our people in World War II, and we know that we will do everything possible to make sure that Israel is strong, safe, and able to protect its land and country," Mordechai said.

Asked about Israel's current position on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, Mordechai did not give the standard line about Israel not being the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. Instead, he said it is up to the West to make sure that no nuclear weapons find their way to the Middle East.

"It is our special mission to cut down all the projects of the countries that would like to produce nuclear weapons. It is too dangerous for Israel and the Western countries," Mordechai said, adding that if nuclear weapons made their way into the hands of Islamic countries, it "would change the whole situation in this region and other parts of the world."

"Germany ... has a great responsibility to do everything possible to stop these projects and to make sure that no country will be able to produce nuclear weapons and put Israel and other democratic countries in a dangerous situation," he said.

Ruehe meets with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu today, and then visits an Air Force base in the Negev and spends the night in Eilat.



German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe (center), on a three-day visit here, his counterpart Yitzhak Mordechai (left) and Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak review an honor guard at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Reuters)

Islamic fundamentalists have yet to win a seat in Lebanon elections

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

ISLAMIC fundamentalists, including Hizbullah, have so far failed to win even one seat in the three rounds already conducted of Lebanon's five-stage general elections, which will be completed on September 15.

Results from Sunday's balloting in Beirut, announced yesterday by Interior Minister Michel Murr, showed a sweeping victory for pro-Syrian Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and most members of his 16-man list. They won 14 of the 19 seats in the capital.

Hariri, who has never held an elected post before, received the highest number of votes among 120 candidates who ran for the parliamentary seats to represent the city's 800,000 people in parliament. Murr said Hariri won

78,714 votes.

Hariri's list included candidates from Hizbullah's rival, the pro-Syrian Amal Shi'ite movement led by Lebanese parliament speaker Nabih Berri.

In the 1992 elections, Amal and Hizbullah ran on a joint list in south Lebanon and Beirut, as a result of which Hizbullah won eight seats in the 128-seat Lebanese parliament - two from Beirut and the north and the remainder from south Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley. This time Hizbullah has run on its own or with other candidates not associated with Amal or the government.

Hizbullah has failed to retain its seats in the north and Beirut, and it

could stand to lose more ground in the last two rounds if the current trend prevails.

Both Hariri and Berri have been highly critical of Hizbullah during the election campaign, in what appears to be a Syrian-backed move to keep the organization on the fringes of Lebanese politics.

Hariri has urged voters to decide between moderation and extremism. He has lashed out at Moslem fundamentalists, saying they have no place in Lebanon's multi-religious society.

"The people have spoken and we respect their word," Hariri said at a news conference after the official tally. "The Lebanese have chosen the course of moderation

... this country can never survive through extremism."

According to Lebanese observers, however, the results of the elections - even if Hizbullah does lose ground - are unlikely to have any impact on the organization's attacks against IDF and South Lebanese Army targets in the security zone.

On the contrary, Hizbullah, according to the observers, is likely to increase its operations in order to justify its existence as a "resistance organization" if it fails on the Lebanese political front.

In an initial reaction, Hizbullah's television station al-Manar discounted the announcement of the results by describing it as "the latest chapter in the official fraud."

Britain urged to ban Islamic extremist rally

DOUGLAS DAVIS LONDON

ISRAEL, Egypt, and Algeria have joined Jewish representatives in calling on the British government to ban an Islamic extremist rally in London next Sunday.

The "Rally for Revival," which is due to be held at the 12,000-seat London Arena, is being organized by Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, former leader of the extremist Hizbut Tahrir and now head of al-Muhajiroun (The Emigrants), which advocates jihad to achieve a single, global Islamic state.

The rally will feature Islamic academics, but will also include videotaped messages from Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hizbullah; Omar Abdur Rahman, the blind Egyptian cleric who is serving life plus 65 years for his part in the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, and Osama Bin-Laden, the wealthy Saudi extremist leader who has called for a jihad against US troops in Saudi Arabia.

The British government has said it has no power to ban the rally, although sources said that three of the people who were due to par-

icipate had been denied entry visas.

An Israeli Embassy official said the embassy had raised its concerns about the rally at a meeting with the Foreign Office. "This is a gathering of people whose mission is to incite terrorism and racial hatred," he said.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry also expressed concern that the rally will be attended "by the paymasters, the ideologues, the financiers, and the zealots of international terrorism."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the rally would "undermine" peace efforts and that he was "surprised at the holding of such a conference, which will include many elements which encourage terrorism."

Among the speakers are Dr. Mohammed Masari, the Saudi dissident who runs an anti-Saudi campaign via the Internet from his home in London, where he had been granted political asylum.

Masari recently won a court battle to remain

in Britain, after the Home Office, in face of Saudi threats to cancel commercial contracts, attempted to deport him to the Dominican Republic.

Masari has not advocated violence, but he has called for Jews to be "eliminated" from Israel and has expressed "understanding" for terrorist outrages in Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Bakri is critical of all Islamic regimes in the Middle East, including Iran, which he describes as corrupt and un-Islamic. He is profoundly opposed to the peace process and reserves his special hatred for Israel. "The State of Israel is a state of terror," he says. "Its existence is a crime."

Britain is widely regarded as a haven for Islamic extremists in exile, but the government has given an assurance that no one who is known to have links with terrorist organizations would be permitted to attend.

In addition, the police have given an assurance that they will monitor the rally to ensure public order is maintained and that the law governing incitement to racial hatred is not contravened.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 18-27
Tel Aviv 22-30
Haifa 23-30
Tiberias 22-35
Afula 22-31
Samaria 18-27
Beerseba 18-22
Eilat 26-38
Dead Sea 24-38

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Slight drop in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	10	15	partly
Berlin	10	15	clear
Buenos Aires	15	25	partly
Calcutta	25	35	cloudy
Chicago	10	15	cloudy
Copenhagen	10	15	partly
Frankfurt	10	15	cloudy
Geneva	10	15	clear
Hong Kong	25	30	clear
London	10	15	partly
Los Angeles	15	25	clear
Madrid	15	25	clear
Moscow	10	15	partly
New York	10	15	clear
Paris	10	15	clear
Rome	15	25	clear
Sydney	15	25	clear
Tokyo	15	25	cloudy
Toronto	10	15	clear

Winning cards

IN yesterday's daily Mifal Hapayis Chance draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, king of hearts, nine of diamonds, and king of clubs.

Plan would move Eilat Airport

HAIM SHAPIRO

PLANS to move the Eilat Airport about a kilometer northward were put forward yesterday by Transport Ministry Director-General Nahum Langental.

According to the plan, the existing runway would be extended to the north, while a new terminal building would be built about a kilometer north of the present one. The plan was presented as part of an overall proposal to develop the port and airport, presented to the commission of developing Eilat.

In the port, Langental proposed moving the present container terminal and developing a marina, suitable for tourism, in its place.

According to Transport Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadya, the plan has the support of the Airports Authority, the Ports and Railways Authority and the Prime Minister's Office.

Report: Germany paid Hizbullah for MIA remains

BOONN (AP) - The German government paid Hizbullah \$25 million for the remains of St-Sgts. Yosef Fink and Rahamin Alsheikh, a newspaper reported yesterday. But a German government official said "the report is false." German security officials mediated the swap in July of the bodies of two who had been missing since 1986, for 45 Hizbullah prisoners. Bild Zeitung, Germany's most read newspaper, said it has been informed by Israeli "diplomatic circles" that the German government paid Hizbullah \$25 million, "as well as medical instruments worth \$18 million, upon the request of the Israeli government." Bild said the German government is offering "a similar sum" for the release of IAF navigator Ron Arad, captured in Lebanon in 1986.

2,200 queries sent to Swiss ombudsman over Holocaust-era funds

SOME 2,200 inquiries about dormant accounts have been sent to the Swiss banking ombudsman since the beginning of 1996, the ombudsman said last week. The ombudsman also has received slightly more than 700 questionnaires, of which two-thirds contain enough information to begin a search for Holocaust-era assets. No matches have been publicly reported, although the banks indicated earlier this year that they had identified 775 dormant and custody accounts, deposited by foreigners before the end of World War II. The Swiss bankers said those accounts are valued at roughly \$32 million, although Jewish organiza-

tions have insisted that there more assets. There is no formal deadline for submitting a claim, although there appears to be an implicit one.

The Volcker committee, charged with conducting an independent audit of dormant Swiss accounts, is expected to complete its work within two years. When it agreed to participate in the audit, the Swiss Bankers Association said any assets that remained unclaimed after the audit would be donated to charitable organizations.

Under Swiss banking law, for the search to begin, claimants have to establish their entitlement to inherit. "Since it often happens that no documents are available in the case of Holocaust victims, we do not require proof [of the kinship to the customer] in the actual sense of the word," the ombudsman, Hanspeter Hani, said last week in response to a query from The Jerusalem Post. "We examine in each individual

case whether the entitlement to inherit has been presented convincingly." An unspecified number of claims have been rejected because entitlement "was not presented convincingly," Hani said. Others have been rejected because they were "submitted by people or organizations who have no connection whatsoever to the presumed bank customer."

"He's fairly generous," said one non-Swiss source who has advised potential Jewish claimants. The source also expressed the concern, however, that Hani had no leverage to ensure that banks would seriously research claims. That leverage was expected to be provided by the audit being arranged by the Volcker committee, which is likely to name an auditor by the end of the month, sources said.

They noted that the banks also were interested in resolving this issue, which has intermittently festered in the last 50 years and

which has tarnished their reputation.

The ombudsman's office was created to serve as an independent intermediary between dissatisfied customers and the banks. Since the beginning of the year, it has been the central contact for people in search of dormant assets. Hani solicits claims, handles inquiries and helps claimants complete questionnaires, which are then passed on to all banks that have reported dormant assets. "If assets are found, the bank decides as to the applicant's entitlement," Hani said. When 1962 review of unclaimed Holocaust-era Swiss assets identified 961 accounts, nearly 7,000 people submitted claims.

Hani was unable to indicate how many of the current claimants had applied previously, saying that three decades ago, there was no centralized search, but that applicants had contacted banks directly. The contemporary procedure for a claim is not well-established, Hani said. "The first applicants therefore had to wait around six months for a definitive answer," he said. "By now, it takes an average of two months between receipt of the questionnaires and the dispatch of a definitive reply."

Inquiries should be sent to: Contact Office of the Swiss Banks, Swiss Banking Ombudsman, Postfach 519, C.H.-8027, Zurich, Switzerland

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bus driver found guilty of manslaughter
Haim Shmaryahu, the Egged bus driver whose bus overturned last October, killing eight people and injuring 10, was found guilty of manslaughter by Jerusalem District Court yesterday. A bus driver must be more cautious and bears greater responsibility for accidents than other drivers, the court ruled. An investigation found that Shmaryahu had been driving at 108 kph on the steep, curvy road between Jerusalem and Jericho when the bus overturned. He will be sentenced next week.

Sarid asks Ben-Yair to investigate rabbi
Meretz chairman Yossi Sarid yesterday asked Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to investigate pressing charges against Rabbi Amnon Yitzhak, who compared Adolf Hitler to Theodor Herzl. "Hitler wanted to destroy the body of the Jewish people; Herzl wanted to destroy the soul, which is much more important than the body," Yitzhak said.

Youth held for robbing foreign workers
A Rishon LeZion youth, who allegedly impersonated a policeman and stole NIS 100 from Romanian workers, was arrested at the end of last week. Police are still trying to identify his partner. The twin identified themselves as policemen at a building site, then proceeded to search the workers for drugs. In the course of the search, they stole the workers' money. The thief's identity was discovered when his father came to the police station and reported that his emotionally disturbed son had come home with NIS 5,000 in his pocket.

Truck driver burned in blaze
The driver of a gas truck was severely burned yesterday afternoon when he lit a cigarette while in the truck and the driver area burst into flames. Firefighters came to the scene immediately. The driver was taken to Wolfson Hospital in Holon.

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MUNICIPALITY OF NAHARIYA ISRAEL

Invitation to tender no. 100/96 concerning supply of and outside paving with combined paving stones in the City of Nahariya. The ordered quantity is 15,000m² for paving the "Children's State" park. The municipality reserves the right of increasing the order up to a total quantity of 60,000m². All conditions of the tender are as detailed in the contract, that may be obtained at the town engineer's office against a non-refundable deposit of NIS2,000 (\$650). Offers must be submitted as detailed and explained in the conditions of the tender document, not later than 12.00 a.m., September 30, 1996.

Jack Sabag
Mayor

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